

Hafa Adai!

SCS hosts raffle draw worth \$18K. **PAGE 2**

Hawaii ferry dreams face cost, public opinion hurdles. **PAGE 9**

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75¢

Land payment bill awaits Torres

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Several parties involved in separate cases with the government could soon receive a partial payment of their long-overdue compensation and judgments. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is expected to sign House Bill 19-213 after the Senate, voting 8-0, passed the measure.

See **LAND** on **Page 4**

Former DPS chief Ingram passes away

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Department of Public Safety commissioner Charles Ingram passed away at the Guam Naval Hospital last Dec. 5.

CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office director Greg Sablan

told *Saipan Tribune* last night that he believes Ingram died of a heart problem.

Ingram's body arrived at the Cabrera Funeral Home last week. He was married to Nancy Ingram.

Sablan said Ingram, a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer, will be buried at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in

Marpi on Jan. 13.

Sablan said they are still coordinating with the U.S. Coast Guard to provide Ingram with full military honors. If the Coast Guard cannot fulfill it due to budgetary constraint, their backup plan is to request the U.S. Army through

See **FORMER** on **Page 4**



Ex-Luta crew now seeks \$199K in unpaid wages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The former captain and six crewmembers of cargo ship M/V *Luta* are now demanding from the vessel's owner \$199,147.77 in unpaid wages.

» **Captain, crewmembers also ask for sale of vessel at minimum of \$550,000 by Jan. 31**

The ex-crewmembers amended their complaint yesterday to change the demand for payment of wages from \$183,647.77 to \$199,147.77.

The amended complaint only changed the demand for wages of ship captain Michael Brochon to \$39,400 and not \$36,400, and for

the wages of chief engineer Henry Heister to \$46,500 and not \$34,000 as earlier sought.

The amounts being sought by the other crewmembers remained the same. Chief mate Michael Harkreader asked for \$30,102; 2nd engineer Roy Allen, \$7,500; chief engineer

See **EX-LUTA** on **Page 4**

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated center, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog join members of the Cabinet and other community leaders for a group photo after signing a proclamation declaring January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month last week.

JON PEREZ

INSIDE



NATION

A powerful storm system that moved across the South killed four people in Alabama.

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ASIA

Duterte will insist on an arbitration ruling if China starts to extract oil from the South China Sea.

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WORLD

The Islamic State group claims responsibility for a major terrorist attack in Turkey.

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Local

SCS hosts raffle draw worth \$18K

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Thirty years; three lucky winners.

That's how Saipan Computer Services commemorated its 30th anniversary this year—with a raffle yesterday that saw the company giving away three Apple 27" iMac with 5K retina display.

The winners of the iMac are Peter Arriola Natalie Suda, and Frances Borja, all of whom were not present during the raffle draw.

Nine major prize winners got a Polaroid mobile printer, a Bose Companion 5 speaker system, a Canon EOS Rebel T5 SLR camera, a Samsung 18" tablet, a GoPro Hero 4 Black camera, a Google 10.2 Pixel tablet, a Lenovo notebook computer, a Cyberpower ultra gaming computer, and a Microsoft Surface Pro 12.3" tablet.

The major prizes amounted to a total of \$18,000, according to business development director Jerry Tiu.

SCS also gave 20 winners 12 mugs and eight umbrellas



ERWIN ENCINARES

Saipan Computer Services staff poses with SCS business development director and KZMI afternoon radio personality Bobby Bogaert yesterday after the raffle draw of the lucky winners.

as a consolation prize.

Tiu offered his gratitude to the CNMI, saying the company would like to give back to the customers that have been

with SCS through the good and bad.

"Thank you to the CNMI for [SCS'] first 30 years. We hope that the type of service

attitude that we have provided will keep you coming," said Tiu. "We will try to have a bigger and better raffle promo next year."

Tiu addressed the winners by congratulating them and inviting them to the next raffle,

scheduled for 2018.

"To the winners, you might win again," said Tiu.

Preparation for the raffle draw started about four months ago, he said.

SCS, a Saipan-based computer-oriented corporation that

retails, service, and maintains computers, turned 30 last Aug. 8, 2016.

SCS also offers the same services to residents of Tinian, Rota, and Guam occasionally, further highlighting their motto, "Service beyond the sale."

Safe Sleep environment



Always place baby on his or her back to sleep for all sleep times, including naps.



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For more information, please call us at: Tel. No.: (670) 236-8715

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SIDS by Baby's Age

More than 90% of SIDS deaths occur before babies reach 6 months of age.

Age by Month: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Even though SIDS can occur anytime during a baby's first year, most SIDS deaths occur in babies between 1 and 4 month of age.

Source: Technical Report of the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

More than 90% of all SIDS deaths occur before 6 months of age

72% of SIDS deaths occur in Months 1-4

SIDS is less common after 8 months of age, but parents and caregivers should continue to follow safe-sleep practices to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death until baby's first birthday.

20th Anniversary

Learn more about ways to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death at <http://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov>

This ad has been brought to you by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development



Community helps CCA serve patients, survivors

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Cancer Association program director Juan L. Babauta is thankful for the assistance shown by the entire community that has allowed them to continue to provide services to patients and survivors including their families.

He said both the public and private sectors are very much involved in their fundraising activities, most especially in their signature event, the Marianas March Against Cancer. "We're all been touched by cancer, that is why we are thankful for all your help," said Babauta. "A lot of you are very much involved—from the administration and Cabinet members to the community organizations—in our signature fundraiser. These funds allow us to assist cancer patients and survivors even their families."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog last week signed a proclamation declaring January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Cervical cancer is the second leading type of cancer in the CNMI, next to breast cancer.

Babauta said the Division of Public Health provided last year



JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog sign the proclamation declaring January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month last week at the conference room of the Office of the Governor.

a mechanism for CCA to extend their assistance services—emotional, financial, and psychological—to Tinian and Rota.

"We already assisted 93 individuals who come to our office and 47 of these are new cases. We have also reached out to the survivors and meet with them on a regular basis for our emotional support programs," said Babauta, who added that a total of 292 attend the meetings.

Babauta said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. also supports CCA.

He also thanked the Legisla-

ture and the administration for their help in providing funds for CCA, especially in Public Law 19-66 that appropriates \$200,000 for their programs. "It allows us to move forward and have the financial capability of providing services in the next five to 10 years."

"This is a much-needed cancer fund that would provide services to the people. We are humbled and happy. We are also pleased with the success of CCA as we continue to reach out to people. Thank you also to CHCC and our healthcare providers."

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The Department of Commerce plans to soon implement innovations that will better serve the community and launching a new online portal is just one of its plans.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman said the new online portal would make transactions with the department more efficient.

The project is also the result of the agency's application to gain grants. "Of course we're trying to apply for other grants but the critical one is the online portal, which is a grant

that we received from the [Office of Insular Affairs]" said Rabauliman. "This project is to streamline all processing and enable online payment, all for the sake of convenience. [This is] to also streamline all processes and transactions in our department and other attached agencies."

The Office of Weights and Measures, one of two attached agencies under the Enforcement and Compliance Division (the other being the Bureau of Taxicabs headed by director David Palacios)

would also get an upgrade.

"On our enforcement side, [OWM] just recently got certified for package weighing. We're also looking to purchase a new software that would help our officers with their field work for more automation and this would include our surrounding islands [Tinian and Rota]," said Rabauliman.

He said he would meet with all agencies and divisions under his department so they could review some of the programs they offer. They also

just finished with their household expenditure survey a few months ago and would soon release the data.

"As far as economic development, we would meet with all stakeholders and revisit other agencies to see what programs they've been working on, to kind of get an update, know the status of these programs, and to see if it needs enhancement," said Rabauliman.

He is also monitoring the insurance side of the Affordable Care Act after President-elect Donald J. Trump and the

GOP-dominated U.S. Congress stated that they plan to repeal it. "We're also revisiting the insurance because the President-elect wants to repeal it. ... We want to see what direction they want to go with it. We're constantly communi-

cating with our State counterparts so that's something that we're really keeping an eye on," added Rabauliman, who is also the department's insurance commissioner.

"The last time, the territories were not included and now we are given a seat at the table where we could put in our contributions," he added.

Labor sees improved hiring for local workers

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero said the Enforcement Division's strict implementation of local and federal labor laws has improved the hiring of U.S. qualified workers in the private sector.

Gil San Nicolas is the division's director.

"We're enforcing the law and that results in the increase, especially for U.S. qualified workers. We want to make sure all qualified...would be employed," she said. "There has to be enforcement in place and that is a good thing. It helped a lot in the decline in the unemployment rate."

Latest data showed that the

CNMI's unemployment rate in 2014 was at 16.8 percent. This is 5.6 percentage points higher than the 11.2 percent posted more than five years ago in a study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

"[That is] the latest rate that [we] have and we are waiting for the release of the latest [household income and expenditure survey] from the CNMI Department of Commerce, which would provide us with a most current unemployment rate," said Deleon Guerrero.

Guam has the lowest unemployment rate among U.S. territories on a list of nations compiled by cia.gov at 7.4 percent in 2014, down by

one percentage point a year before. American Samoa, according to cia.gov, has the highest unemployment rate at 29.9 percent based on April 2011 figures. Puerto Rico is at 13.7 percent while the U.S. Virgin Islands is at 13 percent; both were collated in December 2014.

Deleon Guerrero said they are helping individuals look for jobs that they are most qualified for, based on job vacancy announcements filed by employers.

Labor's data showed that in 2015, 51 percent of the CNMI's employees are qualified U.S. workers compared to foreign laborers at 49 percent. The numbers did not change from 2012 to 2013, with 54

percent for non-U.S. and 46 percent for local workers.

Construction and extraction jobs have the highest labor demand; the number of jobs for both positions is at 21,486. The ongoing construction of several public and private projects is one of the reasons for the high demand.

She said the law is clear that U.S. workers should be given priority. "At the same time they must be qualified for the job they are applying for. [Freely Associated States] citizens are the next priority."

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Info Session on Jan. 5, 2017
(5:30pm at NMC's Room D1)
Visit marianas.edu for details.

Only 4 bankruptcy cases filed in 2015

There were only four bankruptcy cases filed in the U.S. District Court for the

NMI in 2016, according to court records.

The bankruptcy petitions

filed were two Chapter 7s, a Chapter 11, and a Chapter 13. All cases were filed by

individuals.

Under Chapter 7 bankruptcy, most assets of the debtor

are liquidated as quickly as possible to pay off his or her creditors to the extent possible and to free the debtor to start anew.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy allows a debtor to enter into an agreement with creditors under which all or part of the business continues. Chapter 11's objective is to adjust and reorganize a debtor's obligations so as to allow the business to continue.

Under Chapter 13 bankruptcy, debtors propose a repayment plan to make installments to creditors over three to five years. Also known as reorganization bankruptcy, it

enables individuals with regular income to develop a plan to repay all or part of their debts, according to U.S. courts.

In 2015, eight bankruptcy cases were filed in federal court, including that of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

The all-time highest record of bankruptcy cases in the CNMI was in 2005 when 31 cases were filed. One of the factors attributed to such a high number was because it was beginning that year when the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act took effect. The act increased the filing fee and made bankruptcy petitions stricter, among other things. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Judge seeks info on CUC Rota project

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter sought an update on the status of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s project on Rota and if there is oil leakage or plumes contaminating the island's ocean water.

According to minutes filed in court yesterday, Carter ordered representatives from CUC, U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, Department of Justice, and Engineering and Environmental Management Company to convene by conference call this morning, Wednesday.

Carter further ordered that the representatives from CUC, EPA, DOJ, and EEMC, appear for a teleconference on Jan. 10, 2017.

Carter said the purpose of yesterday's call is to gather information in preparation for giving input to the court the following week on the status

of the Rota CUC facility.

Among the questions that Carter wants answers to are the scope of the CUC project on Rota, and if there is groundwater contamination.

"Are there any facility repairs needed, such as pipe or tank repairs? If this information is not currently available, what is the process for obtaining it?" the judge asked.

Carter also asked if it would be cost effective to have a separate incinerator

on Rota for the disposal of waste materials.

"If so, what type of incinerator would be best, and what would be the cost? If this information is not currently available, what is the process for obtaining it," he said.

If an incinerator on Rota is not cost-effective, what should be the incinerator capacity for Saipan?

"Would all of Rota's waste product be sent to Saipan, or would some be sent to Guam?" Carter said.



GAME DAY

A group plays the popular card games known as Yu-Gi-Oh and Magic the Gathering during Game Day at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. **ERWIN ENCINARES**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water outage in As Lito, parts of As Perdido and Koblerville

The villages of As Lito, portions of As Perdido and Koblerville will experience a temporary water service interruption due to a leak on the 8-inch water distribution main line fronting the Happy Market store in As Lito. Water

operations personnel are currently making the necessary emergency repairs. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon after. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). **(CUC)**

MVA to host 'Marianas-

chan' auditions

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold open auditions on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017, on Saipan for "Marianas-*chan*" (Marianas child) to help promote the Northern Mariana Islands in Japan. The contest is open to U.S. citizen children ages 4-6 who reside in the CNMI. Additional details and applications are available

at www.mymarianas.com, and the deadline to apply is extended to 12pm, Jan. 6, 2017. Interested contestants from Tinian and Rota are invited to submit an application with a 1-2 minute video of the contestant to info@mymarianas.com for call back to the audition. For more information, contact the MVA at 664-3200/01. **(MVA)**

LAND

From Page 1

HB 19-213, introduced by Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), would amend Section 302 (3) of Public Law 19-75 and names all parties covered by the appropriation for the payment of judgments. The bill appropriates \$9 million as payments for land compensation—either stipulated, consented, and or other judgments.

The \$9 million is part of the nearly \$41-million supplemental budget, PL 19-

75, that was appropriated to various government agencies and programs.

Torres had urged the Legislature to pass the measure and even attended the House session last week where he had talked to four of the six parties that will benefit from the bill. HB 19-213 would pay six of the biggest land compensation cases.

"Let's make our payment now, settle it to stop the interest from accruing," he had said.

The government owes a total of \$83 million in land compensation and other judg-

ments. Torres said the appropriated amount is just a start in settling some of the administration's debt.

The heirs of Maria Mangabao would get \$3 million, which is 16 percent of the \$18,498,088.01 total judgment they received. *Manglona vs. CNMI* (Civ. No. 97-0486) would get \$900,000; *the Marianas Public Lands Authority vs. the heirs of Rogolifoi* (Civ. No. 05-0197) would get \$700,000 or 26 percent of \$2,690,020.07

Lizama vs Department of Public Lands (Civ. No. 08-149) and *Tano Group vs.*

Department of Public Works (Civ. No. 05-0100) are allotted \$500,000 each; while *Estate of Muna vs. CNMI* (Civ. No. 96-0796) would get \$400,000 or 70.3 percent of \$568,966.82.

The Mangabao and Rogolifoi heirs, estate of Muna, and Lizama vs. DPL are settlement cases that are related to land compensation judgments.

Another \$3 million is reserved to pay the land compensation agreements certified by the Department of Public Works and approved by DPL or its predecessor, for acquisition of right of ways and easements for primary roads.

ERRATUM

In the story titled "Small Business of the Year: D'Elegance Café," that was published on Dec. 30, 2016, it stated that Juliet Cunanan, the owner of D'Elegance Café, arrived on Saipan in 1985, as quoted by Emily Cabrera. Cunanan actually arrived on Saipan in 1975, also as corrected by Cabrera.

FORMER

From Page 1

the Hawaii Office for the full military honors.

He said it's their first time to bury a Coast Guard officer.

"As a retiree, he is entitled to full military honors," Sablan said, adding that it's the reason why DPS is coming in

to provide a color guard and the 21-gun salute.

"We're kind of working together to not only pay tribute to a former DPS commissioner but at the same time a former veteran," Sablan said.

Ingram served as commissioner for DPS during the second term of former governor Pedro P. Tenorio in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

EX-LUTA

From Page 1

John Hart, \$17,875; wiper Joaquin Castro, \$55,874; and able-bodied seaman Marlon Bambalan, \$1,896.77.

Brochon and the crewmembers also asked the court yesterday that M/V *Luta* be auctioned by Jan. 31, 2017, at a minimum of \$550,000.

Brochon and his co-plaintiffs, through counsel David G. Banes, are suing M/V *Luta* and its owner Luta Mermaid LLC, for foreclosure, violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, breach of contract, failure to pay minimum wage, unjust enrichment, breach of maritime contract, quantum merit, violation of Seaman's Protection Act, and unlawful engagement.

They moved to intervene in Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's lawsuit.

The plaintiffs asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Luta Mermaid LLC liable to pay them at least \$199,147.77 for back due wages, plus damages, interest, costs, penalties, and attorney's fees.

According to Banes in the complaint, the crew had a contract with Luta Mermaid

LLC to work as crewmen on the M/V *Luta*.

Banes said the actual pay each plaintiff received was much lower than stipulated in the contracts.

Banes said that beginning on April 5, 2016, the crewmembers made demands on Luta Mermaid for their full wages and back pay, but the company refused their demands.

Two other companies intervened into Yamamoto's lawsuit to collect payment of services.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, M/V *Luta*, Luta Mermaid LLC, Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, Fidel S. Mendiola III, Fidel Mendiola Jr., and Robert Toelkes.

Yamamoto is suing them for breach of contract, fraud, and unjust enrichment.

Yamamoto alleged that Hocog and co-defendants refused to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for M/V *Luta*. He asked the court that the vessel be condemned and be sold to pay his demands, including interest and cost.

With the filing of the lawsuit, the U.S. Marshal Service seized M/V *Luta* last Oct. 25 and appointed the National Maritime Services Inc. as custodian of the vessel.

NMC seminar encourages govt employees to pursue degrees



ERWIN ENCINARES

Numerous government employees from different government agencies attend the Northern Marianas College seminar, "Climb Higher Summit," yesterday.

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College trumpeted yesterday the importance of a college education as a means to move forward in one's career. The seminar, held at the Saipan World Resort, lured more than 200 government employees and was intended to encourage those already employed to pursue a degree.

NMC highlighted its Prior Learning Assessment program, a program hosted by NMC in partnership with the CNMI Civil Service Commission and the Office of Personnel Management, to provide adult students the opportunity to pursue their desired degrees while providing for their families full time.

Through the PLA, the applicant has the opportunity to earn college credits based on their work experience without even having to set foot in the classroom; the credits can then be used to earn certain degrees or certifications for their advancement in the field.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez shared her dream of making the CNMI better through education.

"We want to help them get into college so that they can get a degree, which would definitely help with their family," said Fernandez. "It would also be really great for their departments and for the CNMI in general. The more educated the community, the stronger we are."

According to Fernandez, the number of college graduates from the CNMI puts it at the top of the Pacific region.

"Right now, the CNMI is at

the top of the Pacific region at 16 percent; for the U.S. it is Massachusetts at 38 percent. It is a personal goal for me to help our government employees to graduate and help them get a college degree, which I think is just better for everyone."

Department of Corrections officer Lianna P. Quitugua, who is under the Professional Standards Unit, is planning to finish her Criminal Justice degree through the PLA.

"This is going to give me an opportunity to finish what I wanted to finish. I didn't have the time because I am a mother, so it is pretty hard,"

said Quitugua.

"I also want to be an example to my kids to keep on pushing [for what they want]. This is going to give me an opportunity not only to continue working for my kids, but at the same time to continue working on my education to achieve my goals," she added.

Among the many government agencies that participated in the event were the departments of Corrections, Labor, Public Safety, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality, and the Public School System.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-DPL-049**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2017
TIME: 10:00A.M.

**"TO COMPLETE A CNMI COMPREHENSIVE
PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN,
SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS, A PROJECT
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS

A **PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING** IS SCHEDULED ON **JANUARY 11, 2017 AT 10:00AM, LOCAL TIME** AT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS, 2ND FLOOR JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAIPAN. ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY EMAIL TO **MARIANNE CONCEPCION TEREGEYO**, SECRETARY OF DPL, AT marianet@dpl.gov.mp NO LATER THAN **4:30P.M. LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 18, 2017.**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS (CNMI-PR) ARE APPLICABLE TO THIS PROCUREMENT, AND ALSO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANNE CONCEPCION-TEREGEYO
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY



Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS • EDUCATION • HOPE

2017 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2016 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the representations, election of four (4) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-010**

SAIPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
(S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe Village. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 260 LF of existing 10-inch ACP, ± 2200 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, and ± 250 LF of existing 6-inch ACP, existing sewer manhole rehabilitation, installation of new concrete sewer manhole, 4-inch and 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-010, Saipan Sewer Line Replacement Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 02, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commerce opens CEDS evaluation to the public

The CNMI Department of Commerce is in the final stages of the 2015 to 2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, or CEDS, project. To date, the agency has held two series of public hearings to gain input on the project overview and strategy, as well as to solicit input on public agency project listings.

The project, which is funded under a federal grant through the U.S. Department

of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, is overseen by the CNMI Department of Commerce in consultation with an appointed CNMI CEDS Commission that has concluded the evaluation of each of the identified projects, including those submitted by non-government agencies.

"In line with Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres' directive to ensure public inclusion, we

are encouraging the public to submit their own evaluation of the identified projects. To provide ease of use, the agency has uploaded the project matrix and project descriptions on our dedicated website at www.cnmiceds.com," Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said.

Following the submission of all project evaluations, each project will be ranked based on CEDS commission member

evaluations, as well as public submissions. The evaluations will be included in the final report that will be made public and adopted by the CNMI Department of Commerce and the

U.S. Department of Commerce.

To ensure that Commerce completes the project in a timely manner, evaluations will be open to the public until Jan. 10, 2017.

After Jan. 10, the evaluation function will be disabled on the site and the finalizing of the report for public inspection will take place. *(Office of the Governor)*

BSI throws appreciation party for builders



ERWIN ENCINARES

A Wu Shu practitioner performing a Chinese martial arts demonstration that utilizes the use of a fan for the Chinese employees of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. during the appreciation party.

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. hosted an appreciation party last Dec. 29 for all its workers who are currently rushing to finish the construction of its casino mega-complex, the Imperial Pacific Resort, in Garapan.

Both Chinese construction workers and management were treated to a sumptuous, year-end dinner at the Minachom Atdao pavilion.

"The party is an end-of-year celebration for the workers. They have been working hard for the whole year, so we actually came together to throw

this party to thank them," said BSI site manager Wu Li Wen.

The party was attended by about 90 construction worker.

"We have about 1,500 employees, including the management level. For the others that weren't able to attend the party, we are going to organize another party for the Chinese New Year. We are going to celebrate this because most of the workers are not going back home [for the holidays], so we are going to organize a big party for them," said Wu.

The Lunar New Year celebration this year would be held on Jan. 28, 2017.

Wu said that construction of the hotel-resort would be tem-

porarily halted to give way to the Lunar New Year party.

"We would be looking for a place near the site that is safe, maybe around the beach," he said.

Representative of Chinese industrial company Nanjing Beilida and the project manager of the hotel's façade, Lucas Lu, said that he and his colleagues are happy about the party.

"So many people attended to the project. We have worked very hard, so we are very grateful for the party," said Lu. "We all worked together."

The casino is scheduled to open sometime in February, while the hotel is scheduled to open in June or July.



ERWIN ENCINARES

GAME DAY

A group of young adults play a popular card game known as Vanguard for game day, which was also held during the announcement of the winners of the literary art competition at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Monday.



ERWIN ENCINARES

A group of children enjoys the free use of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's gaming console known as the Playstation 4 for game day.

Water outage in As Lito, Fina Sisu, As Perdido, and parts of Koblerville

There will be a temporary water service interruption tomorrow, Jan. 5, 2017, from 8am to 5pm. The purpose of the interruption is to install a new fire hydrant by the Nutrition Assistance Program building in As Lito.

Affected areas are the villages alongside Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road in As Lito, Fina Sisu, As Perdido, and portions of Koblerville.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas should expect water services to be restored soon after 5pm.

Due to the location of the repair, motorists are advised to take alternative routes and proceed with caution for the safety of CUC's men and women at the jobsite.

This project is funded by the Department of the Inte-

rior's Office of Insular Affairs through the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and CUC.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). *(CUC)*

GVB gets new board members

HAGÂTÑA, Guam—Steady hands and a new voice. That's the message sent by Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz's appointment of directors to the Guam Visitor's Bureau board on behalf of the 34th Guam Legislature.

With a 300-percent increase over the last five years, the Korean visitor market has been essential to offsetting the declining arrival and expenditure numbers from Japan, a traditional staple of Guam's tourism industry.

Careful to maintain strong growth in the Korean market, Cruz appointed veteran tourism expert and immediate past GVB Korean Marketing Committee chair Bartley "Bart" Jackson. Jackson was previously elected by GVB members on the board and currently serves as chairman

of the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association board.

"While Bart and I haven't always agreed on matters of policy, when it comes to tourism and our exponential growth in the Korean market, I can't think of anyone better suited for the job," said Cruz.

Along with Jackson, Cruz also appointed to the GVB board Young S. Hong. A pillar of the Korean community, Hong is the immediate past president of the Korean Women's Association and currently serves as president of the Momo Corp. in Guam.

"Ms. Hong might be new to the GVB board, but with her experience as a business woman and her leadership in the Korean Women's Association, she clearly understands the pulse and rhythm of this very important market," said Cruz.

"Japan is at the center of our tourism base and no one can ever deny its enormous importance, but to grow, we need to do things differently. And for that, we need new voices."

Appointed to serve as legislative appointee-alternate director is Theresa C. Arriola. Arriola's experience in GVB includes her previous positions as deputy general manager, secretary of the board of directors and chair of the Cultural Heritage and Community Outreach Committee. She has also served as a board member and marketing consultant for Pa'a Taota Tano.

"Theresa is a veteran of the GVB board and an outspoken advocate for the Chamorro people's unique cultural heritage," said Cruz. "Her presence on the GVB board demonstrates that while our marketing strategies may change, the specialness of our island will not." *(PR)*

Mochitsuki Festival

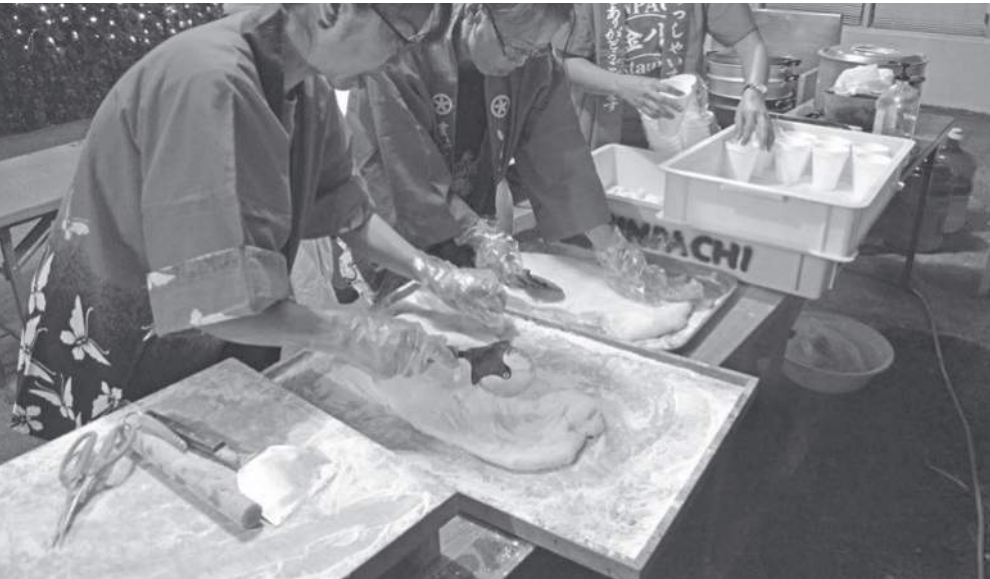
PHOTOS By ERWIN ENCINARES



A group known as "Marianas Ukulele" performs for the crowd during the last day of the Christmas in the Marianas and the Mochitsuki Festival last Dec. 30, 2016, at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.



A tourist prepares to pound the mocha with a "kine," a traditional Japanese mallet used for pounding mochi as water is splashed onto the mochi in between pounding to prevent it from sticking to the stone bowl, or "usu."



Staff from the Kinpachi Japanese restaurant prepares the freshly made mochi for serving to festivalgoers.



A passing construction worker is attracted by the sweet smelling red bean stew.



Performers impress the crowd with both cute dance numbers and traditional performances during the Christmas in the Marianas last Dec. 30, 2016, at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.



CD release party drops island music for NMI



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Artists from the CNM perform at the CD release party on Friday at the Hard Rock Café.

Last Friday, the Hard Rock Café hosted a CD release party for the new music compilation album called *Music Of The Marianas: Made In Saipan Vol.1*. The album was produced by 11th World Productions and features 20 songs, all by artists from the CNMI.

There are many different styles of music on the record including reggae, rap, dance, and folk. Almost all of the artists from the album performed live sets at the CD release party. This included recent recipients of the "CNMI's Got Talent" grand prize and Governor's Choice awards. Out Of The Ordinary, whose original song *Island Vibes* is the opening track on the album, as well as up-and-coming reggae superstar Uprooted, who recently opened for Tribal Theory, captivated the crowd with their all-original music.

Saipan's underground hip-hop community was represented by Joshua Q. Castro (aka ZosZengZung), Fakiezero, and Toots Lizama (Toots and Bennett), who all performed at the

event and got the crowd moving and grooving to the beats. Travis Kaliga played several original songs on ukulele including *I Had A Dream* and *Situation*, which are both featured on the compilation.

Christen Steinkuller and Aamir Malik each played an acoustic set of mellow music followed by the two producers of the album, John Ulrich and Jason Wakeham, who are also both singers/songwriters and each contributed a song to the album.

The show began with the Maranatha Church Choir, who blessed the stage and sang some traditional hymns, followed by Gigi and Bobbi who played songs including their original Saipan anthem, *Coffee and the Beach*.

Overall, the night was a huge success and all the performers and attendees seemed to have a great time, said Ulrich of 11th World Productions.

The artists who were not able to perform but are included on the album are Walter Manglona, Mary-Jo Cama-

cho, Synchonic Vibe, and Ivan Santos.

The *Music Of The Marianas* album started as an idea by Ulrich who wanted to make a record showcasing the many diverse and talented musical artists in the CNMI in order to help them get wider exposure and hopefully make some money from their art. He worked with bands and artists at no charge, recording, mixing and mastering the music in his studio. All profits from sales of the album are shared



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's underground hip-hop community was well-represented at the CD release party on Friday at the Hard Rock Café.

among the contributing artists.

This project was a true labor of love and the product is an album that is solid from start to finish, which represents the musical diversity of the CNMI and includes something for everyone, said Ulrich.

Get your copy today! Enjoy the island vibes of the

CNMI and support local music! The album costs \$20 for 20 songs and is available now as a digital download at www.musicofthemarianas.com or on CDs which are currently available at Franken Brau in San Antonio. The CDs should be available for purchase in other retail loca-

tions around the island in the coming weeks.

Ulrich and Wakeham have already begun planning for Volume 2 and will be seeking local musicians with original music who are interested in participating. You can email musicofthemarianas@gmail.com for more information. (PR)

Woman killed in New Year's Day fireworks explosion in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP)—A fireworks explosion at a large New Year's Day gathering on the Hawaiian island of Oahu has left one woman dead and a man critically injured, authorities said.

The pair had been lighting illegal fireworks at the gathering when the explosion happened, police said.

Emergency personnel arrived just after midnight Sunday at the Campbell Industrial

Park in Kapolei to find the two victims injured. The 38-year-old woman was taken to a hospital in critical condition and died from her injuries. The 36-year-old man remains in critical condition.

Police have opened an unattended death and prohibited explosive device investigation, but no one has been arrested or cited. Honolulu Police Department spokeswoman Sarah Yoro said Monday no further

information was being released at this time.

Honolulu's Emergency Medical Services said the woman's death was among dozens of other fireworks-related incidents over the weekend. The agency responded to 28 calls within the first hour of 2017.

Many people in Hawaii celebrate the new year by setting off fireworks. Firecrackers may be bought and used with a permit on Oahu, but many

other types of fireworks that people set off are illegal.

The Honolulu Fire Department also had a busy weekend, Fire Capt. Kevin Moku-lehua said.

"The Honolulu Fire Department responded to 19 fireworks-related incidents which doubled last year's incident totals," Moku-lehua said. "Most of the incidents were wildland fires, some structure fires and other miscellaneous fires."

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 4, 2005

CNMI wants out of US-China air agreement

Notwithstanding the recent signing of a bilateral agreement expanding air services between China and the United States, the CNMI government wants to be exempted from the pact to avoid competing with lucrative U.S. destinations. Gov. Juan N. Babauta, in a press conference Monday, acknowledged that for the CNMI to enjoy the China market, it has to adhere to the bilateral air agreement. The agreement, however, only provides limited flights between the two countries. "What concerns us is that, if you give China a choice [where to fly in the U.S.], they'd likely choose New York [or] Los Angeles, so we want to seek exemption from the bilateral agreement," Babauta said.

US senator promises to monitor legislation for CNMI's 'stateless'

The CNMI's "stateless persons" gained another ally in the U.S. Congress, with U.S. Sen. E. Benjamin Nelson of Nebraska promising to monitor legislation related to the Northern Marianas. Nelson made the assurance recently in response to a letter from a Nebraska student, Taylor Gage, who had ex-

pressed his support for the cause of the stateless group. Nelson had researched on the history of the lawsuit filed by stateless persons against the State Department, and assured of his support if the matter comes before the Senate. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has favored American citizenship for the stateless persons but the State Department may still appeal this, which could bring the issue all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The State Department has to file with the Supreme Court its appeal on or before Jan. 14, the new deadline that the High Court had set.

January 4, 2012

Medicaid includes CW receipt as requirement for benefit claims

Like other government agencies, Medicaid is also now requiring the submission of new documents for non-U.S. parents of eligible children under the program. This may either be a contract worker permit or receipt issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services justifying their lawful presence in the Commonwealth.

However, unlike other agencies, Medicaid administrator Helen C. Sablan told Saipan Tribune that the additional document is not a major requirement for any recipient or applicant to be denied their benefits. Sablan said the Medicaid program, from the beginning, has required some documents that include the local labor-issued entry permits or umbrella permits. The new requirements are just replacements for these permits that expired last year.

Almost \$1M in excess personnel spending

Almost \$1 million in the CNMI government's total \$4.176 million excess spending just for personnel alone in fiscal year 2011 was incurred by the Legislature, whose members have yet to fully review Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's FY 2011 report showing a \$25.8 million deficit. At the same time, Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that her panel will conduct an oversight hearing on the first quarter of FY 2012's budget "to ensure that we don't incur additional deficit." House Ways and Means chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), along with Taimanao, Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), and other lawmakers, were also surprised to learn that the governor's financial report included almost \$1 million in personnel overspending by the Legislature.

Nov. visitor arrivals up 8 pct.

November 2011 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 8 percent compared to November 2010, according to the latest numbers of the Marianas Visitors Authority. In its report issued yesterday, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 29,275 visitors in November compared to 27,179 in November 2010. The jump also marks the first increase in arrivals this calendar year compared to last. For the first time, arrivals from Korea outpaced Japan. Arrivals from Korea were up 9 percent to 11,389 visitors, nearly 2,000 more visitors than tourists from Japan for the month. An increase in available air seats contributed to the jump.

Hawaii ferry dreams face cost, public opinion hurdles

CATHY BUSSEWITZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—When a 30-foot-tall ferry loomed outside a Kauai harbor in 2007, surfers and kayakers—looking like tiny ducks in comparison—blocked its path, preventing it from unloading hundreds of passengers and sending the giant catamaran back to Oahu.

The emotional standoff where surfers bobbed in the water for hours marked the end to an expensive failure in Hawaii's history: the Superferry. Now the state is exploring bringing back a ferry to run between islands, facing skepticism over financing and whether there's a ferry system residents would accept.

Lawmakers approved \$50,000 in May to study a possible inter-island ferry, and the state Department of Transportation received a \$500,000 grant from the federal Maritime Administration to hire consultants to explore potential routes and boats.

"The feasibility study might come back and say maybe it's not financially feasible for us to do this," said Ford Fuchigami, director of the state Transportation Department. "But right now, using federal money which is available...we want to be sure that we use that money to see whether or not this is possible."

The Hawaii Superferry ran primarily between Oahu and Maui from 2007 until 2009, but was shut down after a judge ruled the state broke the law by not completing required environmental reviews.

It was a costly gamble. Hawaii spent at least \$34 million on equipment for the ferry, which it later sold for just \$425,000. The barges and ramps were custom-made for the Superferry, complicating the sale, said Tim Sakahara, Department of Transportation spokesman.

Hawaii Superferry filed for bankruptcy, leaving \$136.8 million in debt to the Maritime Administration—which repossessed the ferries—and a \$22.9 million debt to Austal USA, which built two ferries for Hawaii for \$190 million. The Navy later paid the Maritime Administration just \$35 million to buy both ships. One now serves as a ferry between Maine and Nova Scotia.

"In the beginning, people

AP
In this Dec. 13, 2007, file photo, Hawaii's Superferry makes its entry into the Kahalui Harbor escorted by the U. S. Coast Guard and heavy law enforcement surveillance.



believed what they were reading, that it was going to be this really low-cost way to go inter-island and it sounded like a great thing," said Irene Bowie, former executive director of the Maui Tomorrow Foundation, which opposed the ferry based on environmental concerns. "But the devil is always in the details."

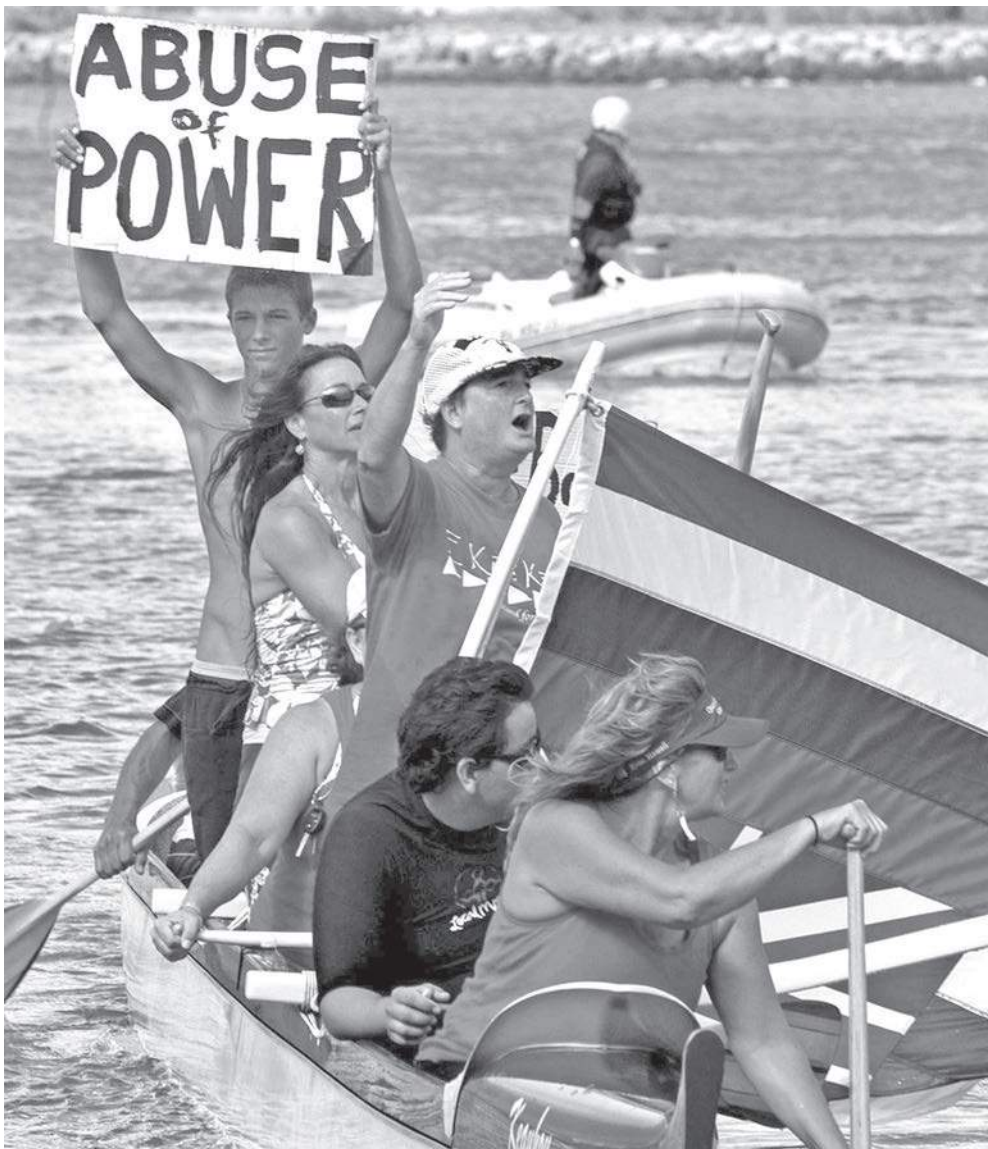
The new study will explore public or private ownership of vessels and operations. If the state owns the vessels, it could get federal subsidies, Fuchigami said. But it might be cheaper for a third party to operate a ferry system, he said.

"Almost no ferry system in the country is self-sustaining," said Lauren Brand, an associate administrator for the Maritime Administration. "The vast majority of them have to have public dollars to help them keep on."

Washington State's ferry system, which Fuchigami has identified as a potential model for Hawaii, gets about 30 percent of its operating costs from subsidies and 70 percent from the fare box, ferry experts said. The Staten Island Ferry in New York, where customers ride for free, is also subsidized by taxpayers.

Hawaii's open ocean geography, deadly channels and protected marine life pose unique challenges.

But Hawaii can learn from ferry systems operating in the Greek Islands, the Philippines and between Argentina and



Uruguay, said David Moseley, a former director of Washington Ferries and senior consultant with Carus, a firm that may compete to conduct the Hawaii study.

"There are places all over the world where ferry systems with similar situations to Hawaii are operating very successfully," Moseley added.

Fuchigami is considering a red-eye trip from Honolulu to Hawaii Island and inter-island trips from Oahu to Kauai and Maui. He also wants commuter ferries on Oahu and Maui.

"Everyone talks about traffic," Fuchigami said, proposing a ferry from Oahu's West side—where homes are less expensive—into urban Honolulu.

To ensure a steady revenue stream, Fuchigami hopes inter-island ferries could carry cargo such as farm produce.

"The main thing is that we're going to be very, very careful," Fuchigami said.

Superferry wasn't the only failed sea vessel attempt in Hawaii. In 2009, the same year the Superferry shut down, Honolulu ended a passenger ferry service called "TheBoat" which shuttled passengers between downtown Honolulu and West Oahu for \$2.

"It didn't really attract ridership," said Michael Hansen, president of the Hawaii Shippers Council. "Most of the people being carried were just tourists taking a boat ride."

A ferry running from Molo-kai to Maui shut down this year amid financial losses.

The Sierra Club, which opposed the Superferry, worries ferries could spread invasive species and rapid ohia death, a fungal disease killing native ohia trees, said director Marti Townsend.

"If there is a way to operate a ferry that can guarantee against the spread of invasive species, then we will keep an open mind, but from what we know now, it's an inherent fatal flaw," she said.

AP
In this Dec. 15, 2007, file photo, a group of people ride in a canoe near the ferry arrival area during a protest against the Alakai Superferry in Maui, Hawaii.

NMC closed Thursday morning

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in an on-campus professional development activity on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, from 8am to 12pm. All NMC offices will be closed during this period to ensure maximum employee

participation. Offices will reopen in the afternoon. We apologize for any inconvenience caused. For any campus emergency, contact NMC Security at 237-6800. For more information about upcoming events, visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

Century Insurance group launches new website

The Century Insurance group of companies is preparing to launch its newly designed website. In line with its continuing growth, the new and improved website reflects the vision of Century Insurance, bringing the full range of solutions offered by its companies to the people of the Marianas and Papua New Guinea.

As involvement in the community is a vital part of Century's values and culture, a portion of the website is dedicated to the ongoing effort of the entire team to make a posi-

tive difference by being part of and serving the communities where it operates.

Furthermore, the improved website provides another opportunity to deepen customer contact by making it easier to reach Century associates and give valuable feedback through a dedicated feedback/survey function.

The homepage sports an interface that introduces a refreshing color scheme and an overall easier navigation to create a better user experience for all visitors. The website has been

designed to adapt to the fast-paced lifestyle of its customers, thus information on the website is made accessible and can be viewed just as seamlessly on mobile devices and tablets.

With the introduction of these improvements and added features, the Century Insurance group of companies seeks to further strengthen its commitment of providing more value and excellent customer service to its growing customer base.

Established in 1988, the Century Insurance group of

companies is known for providing property and casualty insurance solutions. Century Insurance was the first domestic insurer in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Today, it is trusted by customers across Micronesia, the Northern Mariana Islands and Papua New Guinea.

The Century Insurance group of companies is part of the TanHoldings group of companies. For more details, visit Century's website at <http://www.centuryinsurance.com>.

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Texting while driving? In a matter of seconds, you could ruin lives forever

Close your eyes, and count five seconds. Open them. That's the average amount of time motorists take their eyes off the road while texting. The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute says it's actually 4.6 seconds, but you get the picture. Think of what could happen in 4.6 seconds while you're driving 55 mph or faster down a busy expressway, with your eyes shut.

Here's what driving distracted does: April 30, 2013: A woman driving her Dodge Ram truck on an eastern Texas highway checks messages on her iPhone. She crashes into an SUV, killing its driver and a passenger and leaving a 6-year-old boy paralyzed. Aug. 23, 2016: A motorist in Japan is playing Pokemon Go while behind the wheel. He rams into two pedestrians, killing one of them. July 21, 2015: A 17-year-old girl kills a Minnesota man and his 10-year-old daughter after running through a red light; she had been messaging on Facebook for eight minutes before the collision.

Lives lost, families forever marred by moments of distraction.

The latest statistics suggest the toll is likely to get worse. Roughly 10 percent of the 35,000 traffic deaths in the U.S. in 2015 involved a distracted motorist, a nearly 9 percent jump from 2014.

Texting while driving is outlawed in 46 states. Yet a 2015 Harris poll found that nearly a third of American motorists said they text while driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has proposed new guidelines encouraging smartphone makers to develop technology that detects when a cellphone is being operated by the driver of a car and then blocks most apps. Think of a "driver mode," similar to the current "airplane mode."

There's a lot of technology already out there aimed at curbing distracted driving. Most new cars are equipped with software that allows drivers to make phone calls, dictate texts and use apps hand-free. Cellular phone carriers Sprint and AT&T offer apps that, when a car reaches a certain speed, send automatic not-now-I'm-driving replies to incoming texts and emails. In the case of AT&T DriveMode, it's 25 mph. Sprint's Drive First app locks out calls, emails and text messages at 10 mph.

But all this distracted driving technology has a big limitation: You can turn it on, or turn it off. A phone manufacturer that automatically blocks text without giving the user a say-so runs the risk of users taking their business to other phone makers. Should the federal government mandate such technology? No. Phone makers would be smart to pursue that kind of innovation, and consumers would likely welcome it. Market forces, not government fiat, can drive this change. What to do in the meantime? That's easy—the public should stigmatize texting while driving, making it as unacceptable as smoking in front of a baby.

There was a time when drinking and driving didn't carry a social stigma. "Designated driver" was a phrase that didn't exist in our lexicon. The justice system slapped the wrists of drunken drivers much more often than it jailed them. That has changed dramatically.

See TEXTING on Next Page

MADONNES
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WELCOME 2017

Place the
hat in the
bin and
remove the
diaper,
please...

Tinituhun I Sakan

Ihinanau 2016 mesklau finaposña. Lau i pau asuntu siha metgut machalapun gi airen iya Marianas. 'An ta bira i pahina siempre tasoda' mismu asuntu siha ni man-maletki gi 2016. Anaku' hila' este siha na asuntun linahyan.

Guaha siempre apachan batbas entalu' Trump yan Jinpiñg haye i fuetsudu. Gai fuetsa iya China lau hagas fuetsudu America. I metgut siempre u tachu gi uttimu! Mangaige hit gi papa' banderan Amerikanu!

Yangin u guaha chinatsaga entalu' dos nasion, i finenina matigis i cha'guan gi hilu' tanu'. Hita i cha'guan ya nukeru i dos gigante haf' para ta padesi!

Gi ge'katan, siempre u babague' casinon iya Japon gi halum dos-tres años na tiempu. Ha yilulog casinon iya Saipan sa' mas kapas yan to'a sistemaña kumu mina' tres mas fuetsudu na ekonomia gi globus sino i tanu'.

Kulan mampus anaku' lukau i mamamaila' na chinatsaga siha. Siempre u fan oppan a'gañg gigon pañgpañg gi kantun tasin tano'ta.

Ti masedi Marianas ginagauña hutnalerus ginen hiyuñg. Ha diteni todū mahatsan nuebu na fasilidat guine. Mampus metgut i republican gi Congresson America ditetminasioña pumunu' maseha haf' na asuntun pot migrasion.

Lokue', pinalopu' aminasu bisnis mandikiki' guine 'an mahatsa i sueddu. Mas menus cho'chu' yan aduana ginen este na patte gi ekonomia. Ti homlu' este na kinalamten guine. Dañkulu na aminasu kontra empleau yan bisnis mandikiki' siha. Debi u guaha antau na inina gi todū i dos asuntu.

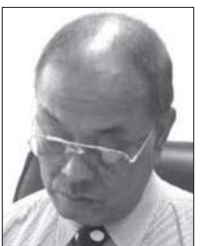
Mientras tantus ta diseseha na u homlu' ma-umentan aduana na sakan. Mampus paska i pisu na gigon sulun ha lachai humogsi gi mago'ta.

Liliku' Achu': Un' lemlen tautau sige hu ebalua haf' na sessu masge' satbasion asuntun linahyan. Ilegña un' primuhu, "Guiya ennuu i peskan liliku' achu'".

Era, man-hanau hit man-peska gi kantun rubentason. Sige ta liliku'e i achu' siha man-eguihan. Gaige gi papa' achu' un' sumen dikiki na guihañ mafanana'an do'du. Kada umihot hau malagu para i otu achu umatog. Moralidat? Ta upus i katdumin tiau, satmuneti, mafuti', maniniñg yan otu guihañ sanhalum pot un' tai bali na do'du.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Pinasensia

Ta tutuhun konbetsasion-ta gi palabran pinasensia. Era hu hahasu finu' ebañgheliu pot pinasensia ginen i lancheru.

I lancheru ha komprende na todū checho'ña gai tiempu. Ha planuye haf' na fina' golai para u tanum. Dispues ha fecha papa' manu na patte gi gualu' para u tutuhun muna' gasgas.

Ha inklusu mandismonta, man-aladu, ma-abonuye, kontodu maprebeniyen hanum para i tinanum siha gi hatdin. Ha kompatte tinanomña segun gi tiempu estake listu para umakusecha.

Ha tanum i simiya. Hana'e tiempu estake doku' ya ha transplanta guatu gi hatdin. Diariu ha assisti hanum para u la'la' ya u felis estake listu.

I lancheru ha komprende na i usun odda' gai tiempu estake siña hali'e produktun tinanomña. I ha kusecha ginen i edda'. Ayu mina' gai pinasensia gi offisioña.

Kau lancheru pat haf' offisiomu, na'en maisa hau tiempu siempre u anog haf' un' masahalume. Pinasensian lancheru!

Animu: Gi hiyuñg siudan Tokyo giya Japon, huli'e mabalutan tinegcha' mansana siha gi troñku ni dos asagua. Kasi proteksion pot no u kinanu' ni ga'ga'. Nai esta listu, mattu i tautau metkau ya matifi'. Mana'e dos amku' ni kepblin niha dispues manhanau.

'Nai humalum-yu' gi un' tendan neñkanu' mamaisenyu' nu ayu na mansana. Hu fahan dos para bai chagi. Magahet na sumen mames na fruta ni numa'e dos amku' kepblin mantensyon niha.

■■■

See TINITUHUN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

TINITUHUN

From Page 10

Dispues mattuyu` gi un` lugat `nai mametkakau todū klasen guihan. Dañkulun metkaun sanhiyuñg `nai katkuet un` atan puru pot guihan desde mas guaguan para sashimi yan para katdun miso`. Diberas tat ti guaha guihe na dañkulun metkau solu pot guihan.

Produktu: Giya Filipinas, hu soda` un` binis familia ginen i niyug. Todū klasen produktu desde paupau, habun, palai lasas, yan otu siha mafabrika ginen niyug. Ayu mas guaguan i lañan niyug ni manalagun tika.

Este na familia ha fatinas \$9 miyon gi sakan ginen bisnis niyug. Un` siuda giya Japon chumuchuli` todū lañan niyug ni ginen tika. Sumen guaguan na attikulu piot gi halum man-amku`. Na ti guaha manadan niyug guine?

■■■

Hu soda` lokue` bisnis todū klasen produktu ginen tuba. Desde miet, pedulas asukat para mandaibitis, yan otu siha produktu. Un` siuda lokue` Japon fumafahan todū produktu ginen chigu` tuba.

Era, guaha giya Filipinas pa`gu niyug dos años. Gigon mattu i mina` dos años ya humuyuñg i biñga` magotdi para umafa` tuba. Ilegu na guaha lokue` troñkun niyug guine, no?

■■■

Gi fina` metkau guihan giya Manila, hu tatitiye halum dos saina yan lagua` guihan ni pineskan niha. Mabendi kineni` niha dispues ha bira siha tatte para i gima`. Dañkulu na animu gi inespihan mantension familia. Ilegu na guaha ha` lokue` guine tasi, no?

■■■

Tat ti siña guine lau mampus hit mañgontentu ni yeñgyuñg adeñg. Inipus inañgoghu gi moseria de hemunus gi otu mauleg na pinetsige para adelantun linala` familia. Para ta ususune ha` man-epineduñg finacho`chu` otu?

■■■

In` hassu un` tiempu `nai sessu i bisinu man-ana`e kusechan gualu` yan peskan tasi? Pa`gu na biahe puru kantun chalan `nai man-mafuegu hit guaguan na guihan siha. Megaiña besis `nai hu pañut tela`hu ya hu upus i lugat. Ti linañgag esta ni sueddun ritirau yan social security!

Sustansia: Ume`ega`yu` bola un` tiempu gi hagas plasa giya Susupe. Estaba gi gihon-hu un` palaoan ha pepechiñg un` kot-tot—balagbag akgak. Gi un` bandaña estaba otu palaoan balagbag Gucci.

Gai minaipe i ha`ane. Ha lagnos i prohma munton salape` ginen kototña. Ha hala un` paska na papet sientu ya ha faisenyu` para bai famahan gimen. Dispues, mamaisen i Gucci na bisinu para baina` gimengue`. Konfitmasian sustansia.

TEXTING

From Page 10

The advocacy group Mothers Against Drunk Driving lobbied to lower the legal blood alcohol limit from 0.1 percent to 0.08 percent and pushed police departments to set up sobriety checkpoints. The group also urged states to slap harsher penalties on motorists convicted of drunken driving. Public service campaigns emphasized perils of drinking and driving: Friends don't let friends ... drive drunk. Even beer bottles now remind people to "drink responsibly." Drunken driving remains a scourge, but alcohol-related traffic deaths have dropped by half since the early 1980s.

The same societal sea change needs to happen with texting while driving. Fines for texting behind the wheel in Illinois, for example, start at \$75. A stiffer penalty would send a stronger message. Saturating the web and airwaves with public awareness campaigns can certainly help. Think of this editorial as a PSA against texting and driving. And the next time you're behind the wheel and an incoming text pings, think of Sammy Meador, the young boy paralyzed in Texas by a distracted driver, a child who once relished being the fastest kid on his baseball team. Think of Sammy until the urge to pick up that phone stops.

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The arrival of the Trump transition team at the State Department

By TIBERIU DIANU
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Following the Nov. 8 elections, and before Rex Tillerson's pick as the new secretary of state on Dec. 13, representatives of President-elect Trump's transition team have arrived at the Department of State to support preparations for the transition (according to address C 2016_11_124 of Nov. 21, 2016).

The transition team is headed by Ambassador Charles L. Glazer and Erin Walsh.

Charles Glazer was sworn in as U.S. ambassador to El Salvador by President George W. Bush on Jan. 16, 2007, but he resigned on Jan. 20, 2009, upon receipt of an Obama order requiring the departure of politically appointed ambassadors by noon on that date. One can imagine Mr. Glazer's feelings now, at his return to the place where he was kicked out eight years ago. Earlier on, in 2004, he served as a Republican national committeeman for Connecticut, and a President Bush Jr. appointee of the board of trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Recently, he served as a Connecticut finance co-chair for the Donald Trump campaign, together with Connecticut delegate Kevin Moynihan.

Erin Walsh is also a member of Donald Trump's presidential transition team. She served previously as senior advisor in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the Department of State and, since 2010, has joined Goldman Sachs and serves as executive director and head of the Office of Corporate Engagement for Asia Pacific.

The transition team will be assisted by a dedicated executive secretariat to ensure they receive information and logistical support from the department to include security clearances, legal issues, human resources, and information management. Communication with the transition team will be directed and managed by the executive secretariat staff (the line). The transition team

will make requests for information through the line, and bureaus and offices will be tasked to provide information, as needed, back through the line.

Likewise, the line will manage the scheduling of meetings and other conversations between members of the transition team and department employees. This will ensure that the department and members of the transition team comply with applicable law and policies, including security and non-disclosure requirements, and that requests for information are tasked to the appropriate department offices.

I can anticipate interesting "meetings and other conversations" between the transition team members and the Department of State employees and contractors.

As I predicted before, a massive departure of federal employees are expected to retire before and after the newly sworn-in Trump administration team.

On Nov. 18, President-elect Trump announced the first wave of agency landing teams for the Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Justice, and National Security Council.

On the very same day, Undersecretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy, on behalf of State Secretary John F. Kerry, will have honored over 300 Department of State retirees during the 2016 retirement ceremony (according to address HR/EX 2016_11_116 of Nov. 17, 2016).

Other conversation topics might include: renewal (or not) of the two-year term offered to a series of federal employees, freezing or reducing the number of vacancies for federal positions, and cutting some federal benefits that have become a sacred cow for an administration in full process of ossification and fossilization.

Tiberiu Dianu has published several books and a host of articles in law, politics, and post-communist societies. He currently lives and works in Washington, D.C., and can be followed on Medium.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Culture and heritage

There has been a lot of talk about Article 12, especially since the 9th Circuit granted non-NMDs the right to vote on the issue. There were justifiable calls of "foul!" from the indigenous community, but it's the law now.

The Chamorro (and other indigenous islanders) want to preserve their culture and heritage. They say that by allowing the non-NMDs to vote on Article 12 will further erode their status. After all, the CNMI islands belong to them, not to the United States.

I believe that the indigenous people have their priorities wrong.

The islanders are slowly killing themselves off; and, at some point, there won't be any more Chamorro, Carolinian or other native islanders. They will all die of diabetes, cancer, or heart disease. If you see photographs of local gatherings—including the DPS, the legislature, even family barbecues—almost everyone is fat. They sit, like tubs of lard, giving the thumb-and-pinky gesture, smiling at the camera.

I wouldn't say they're clueless; they know the risks of being fat, of chewing betel nut, of over-eating, of not getting enough exercise, and (perhaps most of all) using methamphetamine. Nor would I go so far as to say that the locals have a death wish, but many are committing suicide on the installment plan.

I knew a wonderful man, Philip Camacho. He was older, and he had diabetes. When I first met him, he was fairly healthy, trim and in pretty good shape. I didn't know that he had diabetes. Later, Philip was flown to Hawaii, where one of his feet was amputated. Then, after that, he lost the lower part of his leg. Not long ago Philip died in a Honolulu hospital. He was a fine, gra-

cious gentleman, and now he's gone.

So I ask you: when you're being prepped for a foot amputation, does Article 12 seem quite so important? When you're about to lose a leg to the surgeons, do you give much thought to your cultural heritage?

When you are posing for pictures with your cousins, do you think about the disease growing within your body? The mindset seems to be, "Live for today and don't worry about what happens next." If so, then you have given up on your own life.

As we know, many cram their mouths with processed meat, eat lots of white rice, chew betel nut, smoke, drink lots of alcohol and otherwise leave no stone unturned in destroying their health.

I know another guy. He is a merry fellow, always with a twinkle in his eye, and a gob of betel nut in his cheek. I used to tease him, saying, "Are you chewing betel nut, young man?" He would nod, somewhat sheepishly, as if to say, "Yeah, I know it's a bad habit, but I like it."

Today this wonderful human being has stage 4 oral cancer—all because he chewed. I pray that he survives. He's just too valuable to lose. But, unfortunately, this is more the rule than the exception: people die because of their bad habits. What makes the bad habits even more painful is that those who indulge know exactly what they're doing.

Long ago I was in Sunleader. A beautiful woman, accompanied by her adorable young daughter, was at the counter. She was buying two bags of betel nut. As gently as possible, I said, "That stuff can kill you." She smiled at me and replied, "I know."

Over the holidays I watched Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The message was both simple and profound: *Save yourself while there's still time.*

Russ Mason
As Teo, Saipan

Business

Kitty litter helps Wyoming bentonite past drilling slump

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—The market for a peculiar type of clay is looking up thanks to improved prospects for oil and gas drilling and to cat owners who use the stuff to soak up their pets' business.

Over 90 percent of all bentonite mined in the U.S. and almost half worldwide comes from beds of ancient volcanic ash in Wyoming. Some call bentonite the mineral of 1,000 uses: It clarifies wine and other alcoholic beverages, forms an impervious liner to keep landfills from leaking, removes ink during paper recycling, and goes into a slew of homeopathic remedies.

But two of the biggest uses are in kitty litter and drilling mud, the goop pumped down oil and gas wells during drilling to keep the bit cool and carry cuttings to the surface.

As the oil and gas industry's fortunes rise and fall, so can bentonite's. Over the past two years, bentonite mining companies that do a lot of business with the oilfield services industry suffered while the oil and gas industry experienced its worst slump in 20 years or more.

Now, oil and gas prices have recovered somewhat, and petroleum companies look to drill more soon. Bentonite sales likewise show new signs of life, said Rick Magstadt, vice president of manufacturing for bentonite miner Wyo-Ben Inc.

"I'm not going to hex it by saying that I think it's going to be a lot better, but we expect

a better year than we did last year," Magstadt said.

Bentonite assists drilling because of a property called thixotropy, which causes drilling mud to liquefy in the friction of drilling and solidify when the motion stops.

Cat litter has helped the industry ride out the oil and gas downturn, said Wyoming Mining Association Executive Director Travis Deti.

"The pet litter industry has been very steady," Deti said. "That's a remarkable thing that I don't think people realize. We're kind of like the pet litter capital of the world."

Drilling mud accounts for the largest portion of Wyo-Ben's business, while kitty litter and environmental lining round out the company's top three markets, Magstadt said.

Other bentonite mining and processing companies focus almost exclusively on kitty litter, and business has been steady, said Tom Thorson, president of Black Hills Bentonite, which gets 80 to 90 percent of its business from Clorox and other companies that make kitty litter.

Bentonite kitty litter isn't terribly kind to the environment because it comes from surface mines and flushing the stuff, which can absorb up to 10 times its weight in water and swell up to 16 times its original size, isn't a good idea. Bentonite-based kitty litter—millions of tons a year—takes up space in landfills and



In this Dec. 16, 2016, photo, kitty litter products are displayed at a local store in Cheyenne, Wyo. AP

doesn't decompose.

But alternatives, such as corn-based litter, haven't really caught on despite growing demand for environmentally friendly pet products, said Shannon Brown, an analyst

with the market research firm Packaged Facts.

Cat owners often find that biodegradable kitty litters, which can be quite a bit more expensive, doesn't work as well as bentonite-based litters,

she said.

"They either don't like them or their cats don't like them. And so, in many cases, people will try them and then just go back to their standard, clay litter," Brown said.

Nationwide, sales of kitty litter approached \$2.9 billion last year. Three-quarters of cat owners buy kitty litter and three-quarters of those buy clay clumping kitty litter, according to Packaged Facts.

Recently the U.S. Bureau of Land Management approved Wyo-Ben's plans to expand a bentonite pit near Thermopolis in north-central Wyoming. It was a rare bit of good news for Wyoming's mining industry, hit hard by a downturn in coal and a recent BLM coal-leasing moratorium.

Wyoming, the top coal-mining state, produces about as much coal in four days as the state's nine bentonite mines do all year. The 4.3 million tons of bentonite mined nationwide last year was down 10 percent from the year before, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Bentonite mining and processing continues to employ almost 700 people in Wyoming, thanks in no small part to cat owners.

"It doesn't sound that sexy, but it's good for business," Magstadt said.

Protection sought for New Mexico park's geothermal deposits

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Underground pockets of boiling water and steam in a northern New Mexico national preserve that represent the heart of an ancient collapsed volcano could get extra federal protection under a proposal by the National Park Service to limit or prevent any negative effects from tapping geothermal energy on neighboring land.

Federal officials said last week that the Valles Caldera National Preserve would become the 17th U.S. park unit with designated thermal features if approved. A month-

long public comment period will end Jan. 26.

Yellowstone, Crater Lake and Hawaii volcanoes already are on the list of parks with federally protected geothermal features.

Dubbed the "Yellowstone of the Southwest," Valles Caldera is home to vast grasslands, the remnants of one of North America's few super volcanoes and one of New Mexico's most famous elk herds. The bear-claw shaped ring of mountain peaks that form the caldera also is culturally significant to neighboring Native American tribes.

Its visible geothermal features are nowhere near as striking as Yellowstone's geysers and consist mainly of above-ground, pungent sulfur springs, mud pots and steam vents. Only about a third of the preserve has been surveyed, but nearly 30 geothermal fumaroles, or steam vents, have been identified.

The nearly 140-square-mile preserve was purchased by the federal government in 2000 and managed as a working ranch for years. The Park Service took over management of the preserve in 2015.

The last privately-owned mineral rights within the preserve were taken over by the federal government about a decade ago to protect against geothermal development within Valles Caldera's boundaries.

Park officials said the proposed designation would address geothermal development just outside the preserve's boundaries by requiring federal agencies to work with the Park Service to determine if proposed drilling to tap adjacent geothermal resources would adversely affect the preserve's geothermal reserves.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SpaceX finds source of rocket explosion, plans new launch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—SpaceX plans to resume flights as early as next week after finding the cause of an explosion that destroyed a rocket and satellite on a Florida launch pad in September. The Hawthorne, California-based company is aiming for a Sunday, Jan. 8, flight from Vandenberg Air Force Base, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday. The launch still needs approval by the Federal Aviation Administration. The company said its investigation of the Sept. 1 explosion found that a tank failed within the larger, second-stage liquid oxygen tank. SpaceX plans to launch 10 satellites for Iridium Communications Inc. on a Falcon 9 rocket. The satellites will be used to provide mobile communications on land, sea and air.

Nigeria plans to close airport in capital for runway repairs

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's government plans to close the airport in the capital, Abuja, for six weeks to repair a runway that some airlines have described as dangerous, an aviation ministry statement said Monday. The government plans to close Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, the country's second-busiest, for most of February and March. Work by German construction company Julius Berger would continue after the airport reopens and is expected to take six months, the ministry said. During the scheduled closure, flights would be diverted to Kaduna city, which is 250 kilometers (155 miles) from Abuja on a road frequented by bandits who sometimes kidnap people for ransom. The government plans to provide security for buses that will be used to shuttle passengers from Kaduna's small airport to Abuja.

Lawsuit: Dude ranch owner asked chef for 'black people food'

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Madeleine Pickens wanted the African-American chef she recruited from the country club she owns in Southern California to cook "black people food"—not "white people food"—at her rural Nevada dude ranch and wild horse sanctuary, according to a federal lawsuit accusing her of racial discrimination.

Armand Appling says the wealthy philanthropist and ex-wife of Oklahoma energy tycoon T. Boone Pickens told him fried chicken, BBQ ribs and corn bread would be perfect for the tourists who pay nearly \$2,000 a night to stay in plush cottages, ride horses and take Wild West "safaris" on

ATVs at her Mustang Monument Wild Horse Eco-Resort.

Appling alleges he was fired in 2014 in retaliation for complaining about a hostile work environment. He says Pickens' stereotypical references were commonplace at the Elko County ranch stretching across 900 square miles on the edge of the Ruby Mountains about 50 miles west of the Utah line.

Among other things, he says Pickens, who is white, instructed him to terminate two other black kitchen staffers—one she referred to as her "bull" or "ox" and another who had "too much personality." He says she told him they didn't "look like people we

have working at the country club" and didn't "fit the image" of the staff she wanted at the ranch.

Pickens' lawyers argue that even if all the allegations are true, none of her comments were racially motivated. At worst, Pickens' remarks "reflect a non-racial personality conflict and amount to discourtesy, rudeness or lack of sensitivity," they wrote in recent court filings.

U.S. District Judge Miranda Du said during a hearing in Reno last week that Appling's lawyers have failed so far to prove the sort of racial hostility needed to win such a civil rights claim. She dismissed the original lawsuit

that was filed in February but gave them until Jan. 13 to refile an amended complaint seeking unspecified damages from Pickens' nonprofit, Save America's Mustangs.

"It takes a lot to prove these allegations," Du told California attorney Willie Williams on Thursday.

Du agreed with Pickens' lawyer, Dora Lane of Reno, that the only comment that specifically referred to race was the reference to "black people food."

Lane said categorizing foods by ethnicity is commonplace in the restaurant industry. Some restaurants serve Mexican food, others Chinese or Thai food, she said.

Nation

Storms kill 4, damage buildings across Southern states

By JEFF AMY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A powerful storm system that moved across the South on Monday killed four people in Alabama and left a trail of damage over several states, officials said.

The line of severe thunderstorms spawned several possible tornadoes, and the threat continued into early Tuesday for southern Alabama, southwest Georgia and the Florida Panhandle.

Four people were killed Monday evening when a tree fell on their mobile home in Rehobeth, Alabama, said Kris Ware, a spokeswoman for the Dothan Houston County Emergency Management Agency.

The National Weather Service had issued a tornado warning for Houston County in the southern part of the state Monday evening. Local media outlets reported that emergency officials advised residents to stay in their homes and assess damage in the morning.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said in a statement on social media that the Houston County sheriff had told him about the deaths and he offered "prayers for those impacted."

In Georgia, some of the heaviest rains were expected late Monday night and into the overnight hours of early Tuesday morning, forecasters said.

"There is a slight chance



People examine a barn owned by the Miller family that was destroyed during a storm south of Mount Olive, Miss., Monday, Jan. 2, 2017.

of damaging winds and tornadoes, however the highest probabilities are generally west of Interstate 75," said Sid King, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Peachtree City, Georgia, near Atlanta.

Parts of south Georgia could see as much as 3 inches of total rainfall from all the storms produced by the system now moving across southern states, King said.

State emergency officials reported no injuries or deaths in Louisiana and Mississippi, but a trip to Wal-Mart was memorable for some shoppers in Marksville, Louisiana, as

severe weather blew out skylights in the store, sending water and glass cascading onto shoppers.

Marksville Fire Chief Jerry Bordelon said a fireworks stand in the Wal-Mart parking lot was tossed 30 or 40 yards and mangled. The storm also knocked over 18-wheel truck trailers and punched holes in the Wal-Mart's roof. The fire department ordered shoppers to leave the store, but some didn't want to leave even as managers closed it.

"Believe it or not, we had some people in there who were still trying to shop," Bor-

delon said.

Wal-Mart spokeswoman Erica Jones said the Arkansas-based company hopes to reopen the store Tuesday, but isn't sure that will happen, citing needed repairs to a natural gas line.

Storms in central Mississippi near Mendenhall and Mount Olive were preliminarily identified as tornadoes by the National Weather Service, based in part on radar signatures. Both storms damaged farm buildings and homes. Other possible tornadoes will be surveyed later.

In Louisiana, there was also

relatively serious damage in the southwestern parishes of Beauregard and Allen, including the town of Reeves. Some wind damage was also reported in Houston and throughout East Texas. Though Arkansas had also been included in warnings, there was only a stray report of hail in Jackson County in the northeast part of the state.

Tens of thousands lost power in Louisiana and Mississippi at the height of the storm, according to utilities.

Freddie Zeigler, a meteorologist in the Weather Service's New Orleans office, said

heavy winds were preceding the squall line, possibly contributing to power outages.

It was the second episode of heavy rain within days for some areas. An area stretching from Biloxi, Mississippi, through Alabama and across Macon and Augusta, Georgia, received more than 4 inches of rain Monday, according to radar estimates. Parts of southern Mississippi and southwest Alabama have received more than 8 inches of rain since Saturday. Though rivers along the Gulf Coast were rising rapidly Monday, only minor flooding was predicted.

With Roof as his own lawyer, sentencing to begin in slayings

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—After a judge ruled Monday that Dylann Roof is competent to represent himself, the same jury that last month unanimously found him guilty in the slayings of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church will return to court to begin contemplating his punishment.

With the 22-year-old representing himself, the process is sure to be unconventional. But even if Roof is sentenced to death, it's highly unlikely he'd be executed anytime soon.

While prosecutors plan to call up to 38 people related to the nine people killed and three who survived the June 2015 slaughter during Bible study at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, Roof said last week he plans on calling no witnesses and presenting no evidence.

Roof was found guilty last month on 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of the practice of religion. A jury took less than three hours to return its verdict, and a judge dismissed the jury for a break over the holidays.

Typically in what's known as the sentencing phase, defense attorneys call relatives and other witnesses to testify about their client's unsteady state of mind before and during the crimes. Given that background, the defense hopes, a jury might be more likely to spare the defendant's life and opt against the death penalty.

But Roof, who is acting as his own attorney, has said he plans to do no such thing.

In his journal, which was read in court during his trial, Roof said he doesn't believe in psychology, which he called "a Jewish invention" that "does nothing but invent diseases and tell people they have problems when they don't."

Roof also seems to be determined to try to keep evidence embarrassing to him or his family out. Not only did he take over his own defense, but he asked the judge at a hearing last week if he could file a motion limiting what prosecutors can introduce.

Roof also was adamant that a transcript of a hearing where he was found mentally competent not be released to the public.

Under 3 weeks left: Obama in closing stretch of presidency

WASHINGTON (AP)—His last vacation behind him, President Barack Obama is entering the closing stretch of his presidency, an eleventh-hour push to tie up loose ends and put finishing touches on his legacy before handing the reins to President-elect Donald Trump.

Obama returned to Washington midday Monday from Hawaii with less than three weeks left. His final days will largely be consumed by a bid to protect his endangered health care law, a major farewell speech and the ongoing handover of power to Trump.

In an email to supporters on Monday, Obama said his valedictory speech on Jan. 10 follows a tradition set in 1796 when the first president, George Washington, spoke to the American people for the last time in office. The speech will take place at McCormick Place, a giant convention center in Obama's hometown of Chicago.

"I'm thinking about them as a chance to say thank you for this amazing journey, to

celebrate the ways you've changed this country for the better these past eight years, and to offer some thoughts on where we all go from here," Obama said.

Obama's chief speechwriter, Cody Keenan, traveled with Obama to Hawaii and spent much of the trip working on the speech. The Chicago trip will likely be Obama's last outside Washington as president and will include a "family reunion" for Obama's former campaign staffers.

Obama is also planning last-minute commutations and pardons, White House officials said, in line with his second-term effort to cut sentences for inmates given unduly harsh sentences for drug crimes. Though prominent offenders like Edward Snowden and Rod Blagojevich are also asking for leniency, Obama's final acts of clemency are expected to remain focused on drug offenders whose plight Obama tried but failed to address through criminal justice reform.

After taking office eight

years ago, Obama and his aides were effusive in their praise for how Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, helped his team take over the massive federal bureaucracy. Obama has vowed to pass on the favor to Trump. But the transition hasn't been without incident.

The two teams have clashed over the Trump team's requests for information Obama aides

fear could be used to eliminate government employees who worked on Obama priorities like climate change and minority rights overseas. Trump's team, meanwhile, has been frustrated by Obama's attempts to box Trump in with parting moves to block ocean drilling, declare new monuments and further empty out the Guantanamo Bay prison.

Puerto Rico's new gov promises immediate push for statehood

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's new governor was sworn in Monday, promising an immediate push for statehood in a territory facing a deep economic crisis.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello, 37, proposed several measures aimed at alleviating the crisis shortly after he was sworn in at midnight. Among them is a proposal to hold a referendum that would ask voters whether they prefer statehood or independence. Many have argued that Puerto Rico's political status has contributed to its decade-long crisis

that has prompted more than 200,000 people to flee to the U.S. mainland in recent years.

"The United States cannot pretend to be a model of democracy for the world while it discriminates against 3.5 million of its citizens in Puerto Rico, depriving them of their right to political, social and economic equality under the U.S. flag," Rossello said in his inaugural speech, delivered in Spanish. "There is no way to overcome Puerto Rico's crisis given its colonial condition."

The crowd rose to its feet and cheered as Rossello an-

nounced that he would fly to Washington, D.C., Monday to back a bill to admit Puerto Rico as the 51st state.

He also said he would soon hold elections to choose two senators and five representatives to Congress and send them to Washington to demand statehood, a strategy used by Tennessee to join the union in the 18th century. The U.S. government has final say on whether Puerto Rico can become a state.

Rossello said he also aims to boost public-private partnerships and use that revenue

to save a retirement system that faces a \$40 billion deficit and is expected to collapse in less than a year. He pledged to work closely with a federal control board that U.S. Congress created last year to oversee Puerto Rico's finances, and he has said he supports negotiations with creditors to help restructure a public debt of nearly \$70 billion.

"Puerto Rico's recovery begins today," said Rossello, a scientist with no political experience and the son of a former governor who also sought statehood for Puerto Rico.

Asia

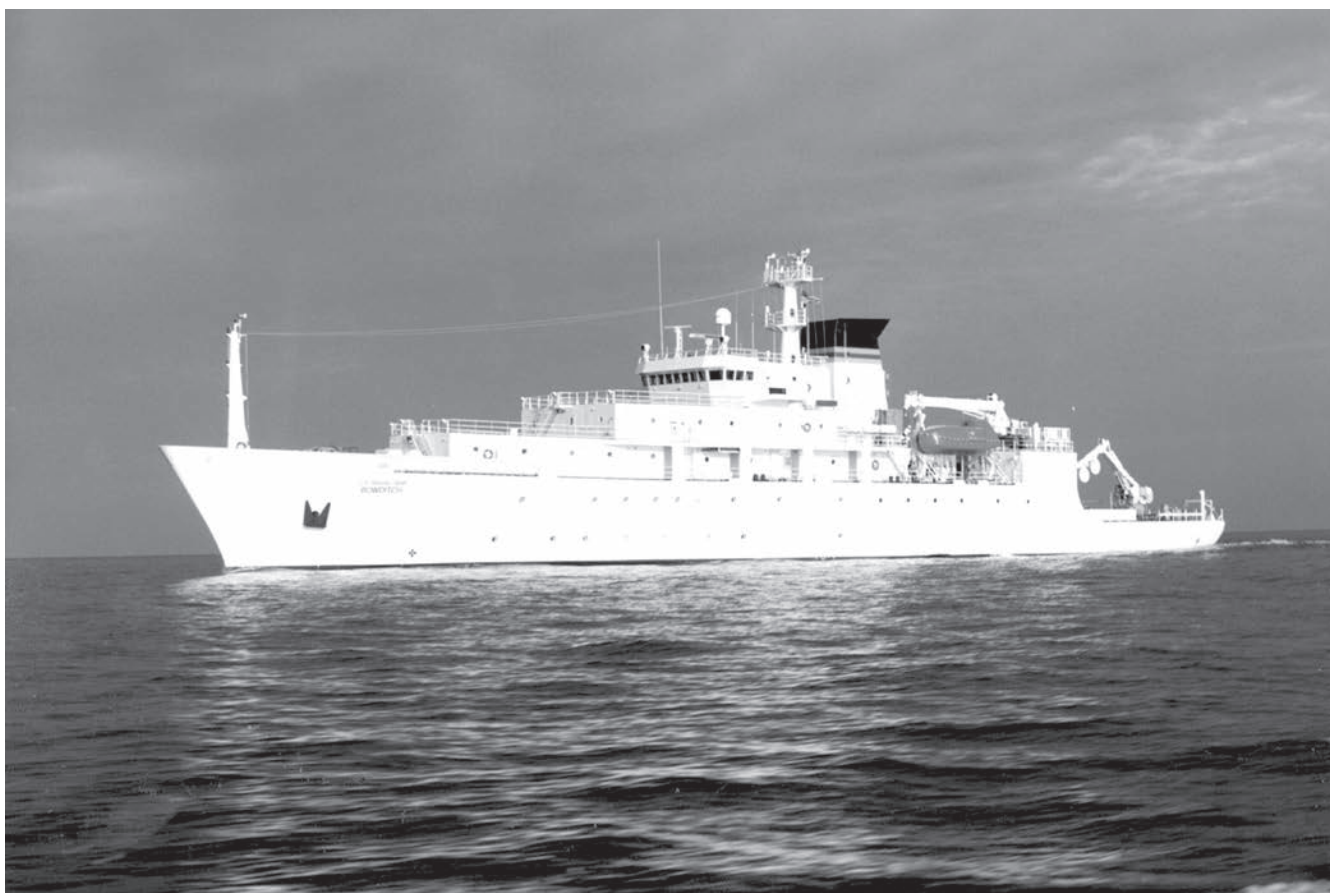
PH to insist on tribunal ruling if China drills

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Thursday he will insist on a ruling of an international arbitration that invalidated Beijing's claims to most of the South China Sea if China starts to extract oil or gas from the area.

His statement in an interview with CNN Philippines Thursday was a departure from his earlier pronouncement that he would "set aside" the ruling because he does not want to impose on China.

Duterte also criticized the United States, saying it did not do anything when China started building artificial islands in the disputed sea.

Duterte, who took office in June, has taken steps to mend relations with China that grew hostile during the time of his predecessor over the long-unresolved territorial disputes. Former President Benigno Aquino III's administration took the disputes to international ar-



In this undated file photo released by the U.S. Navy Visual News Service, the USNS Bowditch, a T-AGS 60 Class Oceanographic Survey Ship, sails in open water.

phoned out."

If that happens, he said, he will tell China: "I thought we're friends? We share economic bounties ... so how about us? I have this title, so what do you think? Don't you think we should talk now?"

Duterte added that if China's construction in the disputed waters was a serious concern then the United States should have led the way and stopped it "right at the beginning, when the first spade of soil was tossed out to the area that was being reclaimed."

"Why raise an issue putting the countries into distress or under stress when you are not going to do anything, when it is you who have the arms?" he added.

China is pitted against smaller neighbors including the Philippines in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves.

The U.S. says it is not taking sides in the disputes but insists on freedom of navigation in international waters and is against coercion by any side against the other.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Van, truck collide, catch fire on Thai highway, killing 25

BANGKOK (AP)—Authorities say a van and a pickup collided and caught fire on a highway in eastern Thailand, killing 25 people. The public transit van lost control and crossed the grass median, colliding with the pickup truck going in the opposite direction Monday afternoon, according to Thai Road Accident Data for Road Safety Culture, which compiles electronic insurance reports. Two people survived the crash, said police Col. Dusadee Kunchorn Na Ayutthaya, superintendent of the Ban Bung district police station in Chonburi province. "An accident like this shouldn't happen but it did," Dusadee said. Both drivers were killed, and police were not yet able to interview the survivors, to determine what caused the crash.

Daughter of woman in South Korea scandal arrested in Denmark

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors said Monday that the daughter of the confidante of impeached President Park Geun-hye has been arrested in Denmark, and that authorities were working to get her returned home in connection with a huge corruption scandal. Park was impeached last month by lawmakers amid

public fury over prosecutors' allegations that she conspired to allow her longtime friend, Choi Soon-sil, to extort companies and control the government. Denmark police arrested Choi's daughter, Chung Yoo-ra, over the weekend on charges of staying there illegally. South Korea had asked Interpol to search for Chung because she didn't return home to answer questions about the scandal. South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported that Chung, a former member of the national equestrian team, allegedly took advantage of her mother's relationship with Park to get unwarranted favors from Seoul's Ewha Womans University.

Afghan official: Police officer killed in a bomb blast

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says that at least one police officer has been killed by a roadside bomb in eastern Logar province. Salim Saleh, spokesman for the provincial governor in Logar, said Monday that four other people including a district police commander and three road construction engineers were wounded in the blast. Meanwhile at least six people were wounded in another explosion near the western city of Herat Sunday evening. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attacks in Logar and Herat provinces.

bitration in a move backed by Washington after China seized a disputed shoal from the Philippines in 2012, then went on to construct seven

man-made islands despite outside objections.

China has refused to recognize the arbitration tribunal, saying it has no jurisdiction.

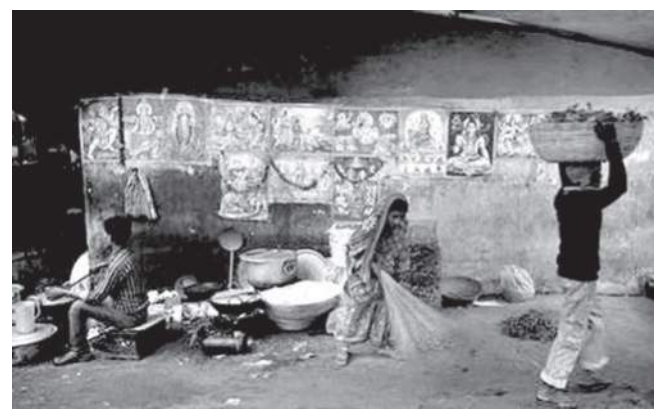
Asked under what circumstances he would bring up the tribunal ruling with China, Duterte said: "Yes, when the minerals are already being si-

Court: Indian candidates can't use faith, caste to get votes

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's top court on Monday ruled that election candidates cannot use religion or caste to seek votes, describing them as corrupt practices under electoral laws.

India has a Hindu-nationalist government, and most political parties select candidates in various districts based on caste and religious considerations to influence voting.

The ruling on Monday is considered significant as it comes months before elections in Uttar Pradesh state where dominant campaign issues are caste affiliations and the building of a Hindu temple in place of a 16th century



An Indian woman sweeps a pavement past a wall covered with posters of Hindu Gods in Gauhati, India, Monday, Jan. 2, 2017.

mosque demolished by Hindu hardliners.

Legislature elections are also due in Punjab, Uttarakhand,

Goa and Manipur states.

Hindus constitute nearly 80 percent of India's 1.25 billion people, while Muslims

Myanmar govt admits video shows police beating villagers

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's government has vowed to take action against police officers shown beating villagers in a video that has circulated on the internet.

A front-page story on Monday in the state-owned Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper about the Nov. 5 incident was a rare official acknowledgment of abuses taking place in the western state of Rakhine. The authorities have been conducting counterinsurgency operations there since an attack in October by

unidentified armed men killed nine border guards.

Human rights groups accuse security forces of abuses against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Rakhine, including rape, killings and the burning of more than 1,000 homes. Myanmar authorities have said accounts of abuses are unhelpful exaggerations spread by foreign media.

Monday's story, which cited the office of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi The country's leader—and police, did not say what punishment the

police might face, only that "measures are being taken to take action against those who violated police force rules."

The story said the video clip was recorded by a police constable.

It said the "clearance operation" in the area of Maungdaw township leading to the incident began after six attackers on three motorcycles shot at 11 policemen on Nov. 3, killing one police corporal and wounding another.

The account said that police, acting on a tip, then raided a

comprise 14.2 percent and the remaining 6 percent adhere to other religions, such as Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism.

Monday's verdict was split 4-3. The majority ruling by Chief Justice T.S. Thakur and three other judges said that religion "has no role in electoral process which is a secular activity." Three dissenting judges said the issue should be left to parliament to decide.

The ruling came on a batch of petitions, including one by Abhiram Singh of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party whose election had been set aside by a Mumbai court.

village looking for the attackers. It added that they were told that in the same village lived a man who distributed "fake information" and placards to fuel a protest there when diplomats visited on Nov. 3.

"The operation also uncovered six machetes, one knife and one spear," the story said. "Following the operation, the police released the remaining villagers and urged them to support community peace in the village."

It did not make clear how many villagers were detained or charged.

World

IS makes unusual claim of responsibility for Turkey attack

ISTANBUL (AP)—The Islamic State group on Monday made an unusual claim of responsibility for a major terrorist attack in Turkey, saying a “soldier of the caliphate” carried out the mass shooting at an Istanbul nightclub that killed 39 people as they welcomed the new year.

The group said Christian revelers were targeted in response to Turkish military operations against IS in northern Syria, but most of the dead were foreign tourists from Muslim countries.

The claim came after a recent IS propaganda video urged attacks on Turkey, which is home to an air base used in the U.S.-led effort against the group in Syria and Iraq.

Turkish authorities never confirmed the authenticity of the Dec. 22 video that purported to show Turkish soldiers who were burned alive, but access to social media was temporarily restricted in what appeared to be an effort to curb circulation of the footage.

The nightclub assailant, armed with a long-barreled weapon, killed a policeman and a civilian early Sunday outside the Reina club before entering



^{AP}
This image taken from CCTV provided by Haberturk Newspaper Monday Jan. 2, 2017, shows the man identified by police as the main suspect in the New Year's Day terror attack at an Istanbul nightclub, earlier that night before the attack.

signaled a shift in IS strategy in Turkey, a predominantly Muslim nation and NATO member.

“It’s a new phase,” security analyst Michael Horowitz said. “What we saw before was an undeclared war, and now we’re entering an open war.”

The IS claim said only that the attacker struck to “let infidel Turkey know that the blood of Muslims that is being shed by its airstrikes and artillery shelling will turn into fire on its territories.”

Early Turkish media reports suggested the nightclub gunman was probably from either

Uzbekistan or Kyrgyzstan and may have been part of the same cell that staged a June attack on Istanbul Ataturk Airport that killed 45 people.

By attacking as the nation was celebrating the new year, the group indicated that it intends to continue being a “scourge” against Turkey in 2017, Kurtulmus said.

Initially, IS activity in Turkey appeared designed to stoke tensions with the country’s ethnic Kurds and reflected events in Syria. The first dramatic attack came July 2015, when a suicide bomber hit a rally of activists in the border town of Suruc, at a time when Kurdish fighters in Syria were under siege just across the border in Kobane.

The worst IS-linked attack to rock Turkey came just months after, in October 2015, when twin suicide bombings killed 102 people at a peace rally in the capital, Ankara.

and firing at some of the estimated 600 people inside. The establishment is frequented by famous locals, including singers, actors and athletes.

Authorities obtained the fingerprints and a basic description of the gunman and are close to identifying him, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Monday

after a weekly cabinet meeting. He confirmed that eight people have been detained in connection with the attack.

The Islamic State group boasts of having cells in Turkey, regularly issues propaganda in Turkish and is believed to have hundreds of Turks in its ranks. But until now, the main act of aggression it had

claimed in Turkey was the March 2016 killing of a Syrian journalist and an attack on riot police in the province of Diyarbakir, which Kurdish militants also claimed.

Other attacks in Turkey have been linked to IS, but without specific claims of responsibility.

For some analysts, the claim

IS suicide bomber kills 36 in Baghdad market

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber driving a pickup loaded with explosives struck a bustling market in Baghdad on Monday, killing at least 36 people in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group hours after French President Francois Hollande arrived in the Iraqi capital.

The bomb went off in a fruit and vegetable market that was packed with day laborers, a police officer said, adding that another 52 people were wounded.

During a press conference with Hollande, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said the bomb-

er pretended to be a man seeking to hire day laborers. Once the workers gathered around, he detonated the vehicle.

IS claimed the attack in a statement circulated on a militant website often used by the extremists. It was the third IS-claimed attack in as many days in and around Baghdad, underscoring the lingering threat posed by the group despite a string of setbacks elsewhere in the country over the past year, including in and around the northern city of Mosul.

The attack took place in Sadr City, a vast Shiite district in eastern Baghdad that

has been repeatedly targeted by Sunni extremists since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Shiite militiamen loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr, the firebrand cleric for whose family the neighborhood is named, were seen evacuating bodies in their trucks before ambulances arrived. Dead bodies were scattered across the bloody pavement alongside fruit, vegetables and laborers’ shovels and axes. A minibus filled with dead passengers was on fire.

Asaad Hashim, an owner of a mobile phone store nearby, described how the laborers pushed and shoved around

the bomber’s vehicle, trying to get hired.

“Then a big boom came, sending them up into the air,” said the 28-year old, who suffered shrapnel wounds to his right hand. He blamed “the most ineffective security forces in the world” for failing to prevent the attack.

An angry crowd cursed the government, even after a representative of al-Sadr tried to calm them. Late last month, Iraqi authorities started removing some of the security checkpoints in Baghdad in a bid to ease traffic for the capital’s 6 million residents.

At least 56 inmates killed in prison riot in northern Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—An attack by members of one crime gang on rival inmates touched off a riot at a prison in the northern state of Amazonas, leaving at least 56 dead, including several who were beheaded or dismembered in the worst bloodshed at a Brazilian prison since 1992.

Authorities said the riot that raged from Sunday afternoon into Monday morning grew out of a fight between two of the country’s biggest crime gangs over control of prisons and drug routes in northern Brazil.

In a separate incident Mon-

day evening, four inmates were killed at another Amazonas prison. Police were investigating whether there was a connection between the mass killings at the Anisio Jobim Penitentiary Complex and the later ones at Unidade Prisional do Puraquequara.

Amazonas authorities initially reported 60 dead in the Anisio Jobim prison in Manaus, but the state public security secretary’s office later reduced that figure to 56. Officials also said 112 inmates escaped during the riot.

There were 1,224 inmates in the prison, which was built

to hold 592, Amazonas state public security’s office said. The prison is run by a private company that is paid according to the number of inmates.

Twelve prison guards were held hostage by the inmates during the riot, though none was injured.

“This is the biggest prison massacre in our state’s history,” Public Security Secretary Sergio Fontes said at a news conference. “What happened here is another chapter of the war that narcos are waging on this country and it shows that this problem cannot be tackled

only by state governments.”

Fontes confirmed that many of the dead had been beheaded. Judge Luis Carlos Valois, who negotiated the end of the riot with inmates, said he saw many bodies that had been quartered.

“I never saw anything like that in my life. All those bodies, the blood,” Valois wrote on Facebook.

It was the largest death toll during a Brazilian prison riot since the killing of 111 inmates by police officers in the Carandiru penitentiary in Sao Paulo in 1992. Police said they acted in self-defense then.

Yemen’s children starve as war drags on

ABS, Yemen (AP)—As the first light of dawn trickles in through the hospital window, 19-year-old Mohammed Ali learns that his two-year-old cousin has died of hunger. But he has to remain strong for his little brother Mohannad, who could be next.

He holds his brother’s hand as the five-year-old struggles to breathe, his skin stretched tight over tiny ribs. “I have already lost a cousin to malnutrition today, I can’t lose my little brother,” he says.

They are among countless Yemenis who are struggling to feed themselves amid a grinding civil war that has pushed the Arab world’s poorest nation to the brink of famine. The family lives in a mud hut in northern Yemen, territory controlled by Shiite Houthi rebels, who are at war with government forces and a Saudi-led and U.S.-backed coalition.

The coalition has been waging a fierce air campaign against the rebels since March 2015, trying unsuccessfully to dislodge them from the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country’s north. A coalition blockade aimed at preventing the Houthis from re-arming has contributed to a 60-percent spike in food prices, according to an estimate used by international aid groups.

During the best of times, many Yemenis struggled to make ends meet. Now they can barely feed themselves.

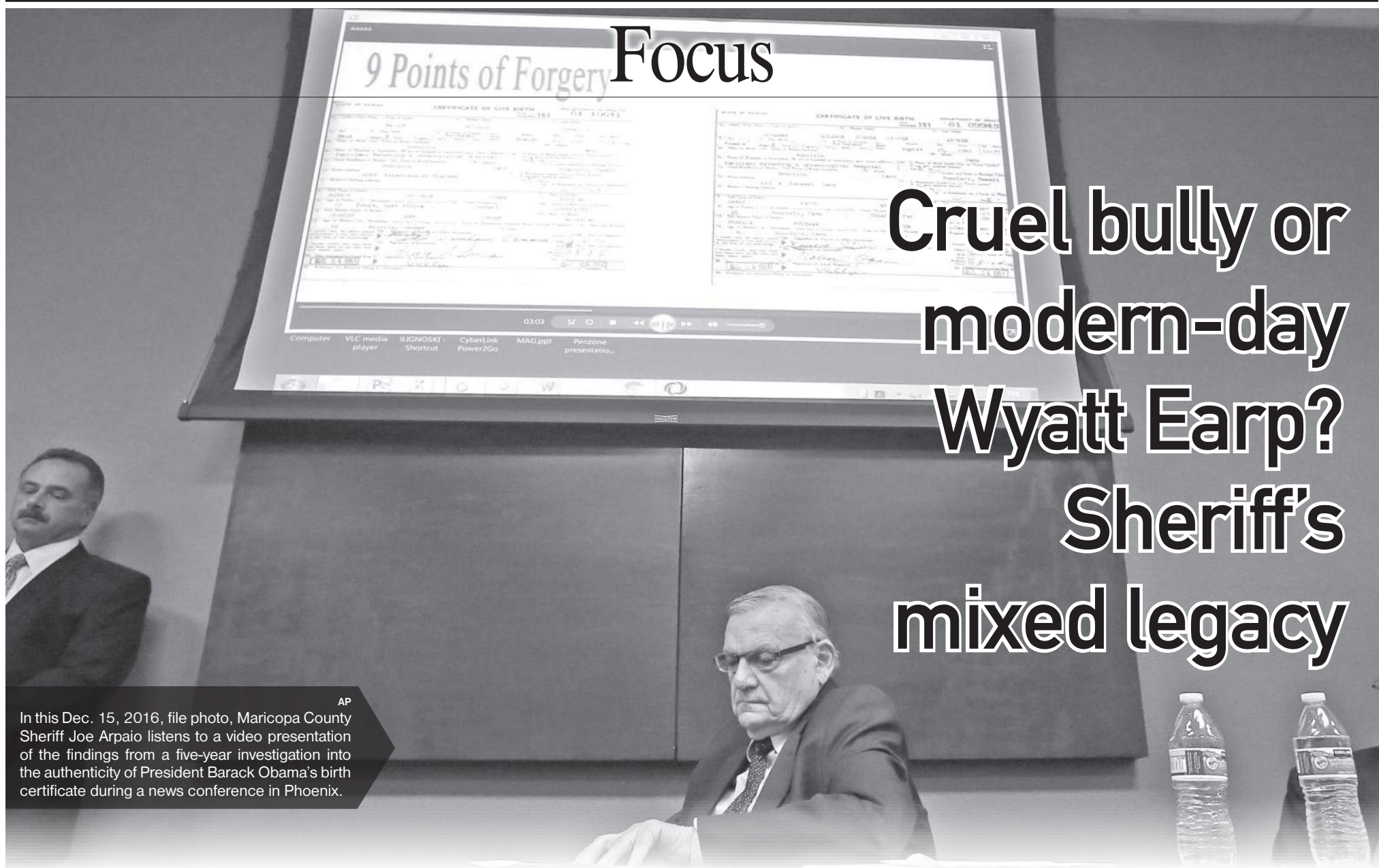
Mohammed’s father

works seasonal farming jobs that pay only a few dollars a day. Mohammed dropped out of school after the war began and scrapes by on occasional construction and farming work. Before the war, they could afford to eat beef or chicken once a week, but now they are lucky to have some fish with lunch. Their diet mainly consists of bread, rice and tea.

Earlier this month, Mohammed and his brother made the hour-long journey, over a bumpy and unsafe road, to the nearest hospital, in the town of Abs. Mohannad’s condition, which began with diarrhea, had been worsening for the past two years, but they couldn’t afford treatment.

Some 2.2 million children suffer from malnutrition across Yemen, according to the U.N. children’s agency, UNICEF. That includes 462,000 who, like Mohannad, are afflicted with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), which makes them especially vulnerable to otherwise preventable illnesses like diarrhea and pneumonia.

UNICEF is supporting the treatment of 215,000 children suffering from SAM and has provided vitamin supplements to millions more, said Rajat Madhok, the agency’s spokesman in Yemen. But “this lifesaving work remains hindered by the shortage of funding and limited access to areas caught in the fighting,” he said.



AP
In this Dec. 15, 2016, file photo, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio listens to a video presentation of the findings from a five-year investigation into the authenticity of President Barack Obama's birth certificate during a news conference in Phoenix.

JACQUES BILLEAUD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX (AP)—The full-throated bravado that made Sheriff Joe Arpaio a household name in debates over illegal immigration and the treatment of jail inmates was missing as he started his last news conference in a law enforcement career that spanned a half-century.

After being charged with a crime and booted from office by voters, the 84-year-old Arpaio looked tired and dispirited as he defended his investigation of President Barack Obama's birth certificate—a debunked controversy that critics say Arpaio exploited to raise funds from his supporters.

The sheriff mispronounced several words as he attacked the birth record of the president he blames for his political demise. The media-savvy lawman ended the news conference by uncharacteristically declining to mix it up with reporters about the credibility of the five-year Obama investigation by his volunteer posse.

He told his 75 supporters in the room that the investigation wasn't about whether Obama was born in the U.S. and instead focused on a claim that the birth certificate was fraudulent.

"This is tough for me to say—believe me, all of you media know me," Arpaio said. "Sometimes I get diarrhea of

the mouth. But I am going to tell you, we are not going to answer any questions. There is more sensitive information that we have regarding this matter, and I am not going into it."

The investigation was another questionable tactic in Arpaio's 24-year tenure as the sheriff of metro Phoenix that ended Sunday and was also marked by traffic patrols and business raids that targeted immigrants; decisions to house jail inmates in tents, dress them in pink underwear and make them work on chain gangs; round up dead-beat parents; and arrest animal abusers.

Arpaio's critics say he was a bully who was driven by a hunger for publicity and who treated powerless people harshly because it was popular with voters.

Attorney Mike Manning, who filed several lawsuits against the sheriff over incustody deaths, said the lawman will be remembered for bringing a "culture of cruelty" to his jails.

Arpaio stepped over the line when he treated inmates awaiting trial as if they were hardened criminals, even though the Constitution prohibits punishing people before they are convicted of crimes, Manning said.

"He wanted those jails to punish and hurt those detainees," Manning said.

Supporters counter that Arpaio is a standup guy who did what the public wanted and was the only local police official to do something about



AP
In this Feb. 4, 2009, file photo, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, left, orders approximately 200 convicted illegal immigrants handcuffed together and moved into a separate area of Tent City, for incarceration until their sentences are served and they are deported to their home countries, in Phoenix.

illegal immigration.

Tom Morrissey, a retired chief U.S. marshal who has been a friend of Arpaio for more than two decades, believes history will be kind to the sheriff.

"He will be celebrated and remembered 100 years from now, like Wyatt Earp was," Morrissey said, referring to the Old West sheriff credited with taming Tombstone.

Arpaio took big chances in using jail tents and dressing inmates in pink underwear and was correct in taking on illegal immigration a decade ago when voters demanded action and state lawmakers passed laws to confront the problem,

Morrissey said. But in doing so, he said, Arpaio was unfairly portrayed as anti-Latino.

"Believe me, there is a lot of support for him in the legal Latino community, but it just didn't get played that way," Morrissey said.

Lydia Guzman, a Latino civil rights advocate who helped organize volunteers to video-record encounters between officers and motorists during the immigration patrols, said Arpaio turned his back on the Hispanic community by caving in to public pressure to crack down on illegal immigration.

"Joe is a politician and has to get re-elected, so he did

what he had to do to get himself elected," Guzman said.

Arpaio, through a spokesman, declined a request to speak about his legacy.

"I built a reputation in this world," Arpaio said in an interview days after his defeat in November. "Everyone knows who the sheriff is. That's one advantage. I've worked hard in this life." State Sen. John Kavanagh, an Arpaio friend and proponent of tough crackdowns on illegal immigration, said the lawman gained popularity because he created a law-and-order persona that connected with voters.

"He wasn't afraid to speak his mind, even if it was po-

litically incorrect," Kavanagh said. "He was an elected sheriff—he didn't have to worry about a town council firing him. He could be straight up with people, and he was."

That base of devoted supporters and impressive fundraising helped Arpaio get elected to six terms.

Now, he is leaving office after being charged with a crime himself—misdemeanor contempt-of-court for prolonging his immigration patrols against the orders of a federal judge. Arpaio has acknowledged the contempt violation but says it wasn't intentional. He could face up to six months in jail if convicted.

In recent years, Arpaio's reputation for being tough on criminals was undermined by his failure to adequately investigate more than 400 cases alleging sex crimes, including dozens of child molestation reports.

Arpaio did investigate a number of county officials and judges who were at odds with him in political and legal disputes. But the investigations eventually collapsed, and county taxpayers had to pay \$8.7 million in lawsuits filed by people who said they were investigated on trumped-up allegations.

In all, the sheriff's office racked up \$130 million in taxpayer-funded legal costs during the tenure of Arpaio, who was trounced in the November election by Paul Penzone, a little-known retired Phoenix police sergeant.

Good Housekeeping

DIGGIN' IN:

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Finding feeders for feathered friends

After redoing our 10-year-old yard with new plants and patio, we added the icing on the cake — bird feeders for our feathered friends.

After planting eastern red cedars, hollies and other bird-attracting plants in the natural area outback, we visited several birding stores to select a feeding system.

In the past, we built our own systems. Our favorite was a 10-foot-long 4-by-4 cemented in the ground, and outfitted with squirrel- and raccoon-deterrent baffle and four 12-inch, vinyl-coated hooks. Caged feeders fend off squirrels and nuisance birds.

This time, we purchased an advanced feeder pole system and feeders from Wild Birds Unlimited in Virginia Beach, Va., part of a national franchise of stores — www.wbu.com.

FEEDER POLES 101

I have had feeder poles before and disliked them because they twisted, turned and leaned in soft wet soil. It's mainly why we did the 4-by-4 post and cement — nothing short of an earthquake was going to move that contraption.

The advanced pole system, however, looks sturdy, thanks to a stabilizer that slips onto the pole and into the ground. Installation is simple and straightforward — twist the 48-inch base pole 16 inches into the ground and then slide the stabilizer onto the 48-inch section. Several months later, the pole still stands straight, despite gusty winds and drenching rains.

Snap-on, snap-off extensions give you a pole as tall or as short as you want. A double-crook arm provides hangers for two feeders; add a second arm for four feeders. Accessories such as a decorative finial, side-dish feeder, decorative branch perch and suet cage with bracket attach easily. Because the pole is located in the middle of the lawn, close to a window where I can watch birds as they feed, I placed a Yard Tuff mulch tree ring on the ground around the pole; the ring makes it easy for the mower and trimmer to go around the feeder system.

NUISANCE-PROOF FEEDERS

I am a long-time, diehard fan of caged bird feeders because



TNS
A downy woodpecker feeds on suet.



TNS
A new advanced feeder pole system in Kathy Van Mullekom's backyard in Virginia Beach, Va., features four hooks for various types of bird feeders. A baffle on the pole deters nuisance wildlife.

they, along with a baffle, keep out squirrels, raccoons and unwanted birds like grackles and common blackbirds. Successful caged feeders have a wide, wide space between the feeding tube and the outside cage so paws and beaks can't reach through and sneak a snack.

Easy-clean feeders are another good way to go. Some brands like Duncraft feature a pull-and-slide feature that frees all the feeding ports so you can scrub and rinse them, then reassemble the feeder without much effort. Other brands have bottoms that re-

lease and feeding ports that snap out for easy access, too. These feeders will cost you more than one-piece units but the price is worth it.

HOMEMADE BIRD TREATS

Here are some easy-to-do bird treats, courtesy Cole's Wild Bird Products — <http://coleswildbird.com>.

—Pinecone feeder. You need one large pine cone, string or ribbon for hanging, smooth or crunch peanut butter and bird seed. Tie a piece of string or ribbon around the large pine cone, leaving about eight inches to wrap and tie around tree branch or large shrub limb. Spread peanut butter all over the pine cone, and be sure to fill the crevices. Then roll the peanut butter-coated pine cone in birdseed. Hang high from a tree branch! Great winter craft project for kids.

—High energy homemade suet for winter. You need one cup of vegetable shortening, one cup of peanut butter (smooth or chunky), two cups of quick-cook oats, one-third cup sugar, and one cup white flour. Melt shortening and peanut butter together until well blended, and then stir in the rest of the ingredients. Pour mix into a square container about two inches deep. Allow the mix to cool. Cut into squares, bag and place in freezer. Squares can be stuck

on tree branches easily.

—Bring on the bacon. Save the grease from your breakfast bacon to make a good winter treat for birds. Mix one cup of bacon grease with one cup of peanut butter and two cups cornmeal. This treat can be spread right on a tree trunk!

—Fresh fruit feast. Apples, cut in half and skewer onto tree branches to attract robins, blue jays, bluebirds, woodpeckers, gray catbirds, and others. Oranges, cut in half and skewer onto tree branches to attract orioles, woodpeckers, thrashers, tanagers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and others. Grapes, hang bunches of grapes from tree branches to attract robins, mockingbirds, bluebirds, towhees, woodpeckers, and others.

—Birds and berries. Collect bunches of red berries from holly, spicebush, or dogwood. Tie each bunch tightly with a string, leaving about eight inches to wrap around a tree branch

—String popcorn and cranberries. Just like people do to decorate a Christmas tree, hang the natural garland of popcorn and cranberries on a tree or bush outdoors — fun craft for kids!

—Indian corn. Tie a string tightly around a bunch of Indian corn, leaving eight inches to wrap and tie it all tightly to a tree branch.

SEEDS BIRDS LIKE

February is National Bird-Feeding Month, a time to put out seed and suet that will bring birds to your backyard feeders where you can watch them intently.

Here's what birds like best, according to National Bird-Feeding Society at www.birdfeeding.org/nbfm.html, Cornell Lab of Ornithology at www.birds.cornell.edu and Cole's Wild Bird Feed at (<http://coleswildbird.com>).

—Mealworms: bluebirds.
—Sunflower meats: bluebirds, warblers, robins and woodpeckers.

—Sunflower: chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, blackbirds and jays.

—White millet: ground-feeding birds like towhees, juncos, song sparrows, doves and Indigo bunting.

—Safflower: cardinal, chickadees and titmice.

—Nyger, or thistle: finches.

—Corn: jays.

—Suet: most birds; woodpeckers especially like peanut-filled suet.



A Yard Tuff mulch tree ring makes a neat and easy-keep look at the base of a pole feeder system.

Life & Style

For Donald Trump, the 1980s still hold relevance



AP

In this Oct. 23, 1986, file photo, Donald Trump is photographed in New York's Central Park, in front of the Wollman Skating Rink, which he offered to rebuild after the city's renovation effort had come to a standstill.

Bobby Knight. Don King. Sylvester Stallone. Many of President-elect Donald Trump's cultural touchstones, which he'd frequently name-drop at campaign rallies and on Twitter, were at their peak in the 1980s—the decade Trump's celebrity status rose in New York, Trump Tower was built, “The Art of the Deal” was published and he first flirted with running for public office.

The “Go Go 1980s” of New York were spurred by Wall Street's rise. It was a brash decade in which excess was the norm and ostentatious displays of wealth and power were celebrated in pop culture and among Manhattan's elite. And while much of what defined the 1980s has since gone out of style, Trump has seemingly internalized its ethos, which is reflected in the decor of the Trump Tower lobby and the celebrities he stood alongside during the campaign.

An outer-borough New York developer trying to prove himself across the East River, Trump always sought approval of Manhattan's ruling class and was eager to make a name for himself, according to those who tangled with him during that formative decade.

“He would relentlessly promote himself in the newspapers or on TV. He knew how to get press and squash his enemies,” said George Arzt, press secretary for former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, who served from 1978 to 1989. The me-first attitude that defined the 1980s

“has long been a part of who Trump is,” Arzt added.

In the 1980s, as Trump came of age as a public figure, he opened up a refurbished Grand Hyatt on 42nd Street, took over the long-stalled renovation of Central Park's ice skating rink and purchased the New York-area team in the fledgling United States Football League.

He fashioned himself into a regular in the gossip pages, playing the city's tabloids off each other as he promoted his personal brand. He also took his first steps onto the national media stage, making his debut on “60 Minutes” in 1985. The long-running news magazine broadcast has continued to hold a special place in his heart. Several times at rallies, Trump invoked a “60 Minutes” segment he had just watched and he gave his first post-election interview to the show last month. That show was at its apex in the ratings in the 1980s.

Time Magazine, which also wielded significant clout in the 1980s, also has remained an obsession for Trump.

The celebrity businessman, who complained in recent years that he wasn't named the magazine's Person of the Year, received the award in 2016. He called it a “very, very great honor.” That marked his eighth time on the cover this year alone—something that Trump would brag about during campaign rallies. He has taken to giving out autographed copies of the cover to visitors, including rapper Kanye West.

But while West is a current megastar, Trump mostly chose

to trot out 1980s celebrities during his campaign, even if many of them had seen their star fade in the ensuing 30 years.

Knight, the former Indiana University basketball coach who captured college basketball national titles in 1981 and 1987 but was later fired for attacking a student, became a favorite sidekick. He first appeared with Trump during the spring's Indiana primary

and reappeared at rallies in the Midwest during the general election stretch run.

“One of the reasons I won: Bobby Knight! That's the gold standard, right?” Trump exclaimed in August.

King, the flamboyant boxing promoter who hyped Mike Tyson's 1980s fights, was also saluted by Trump as “a phenomenal person” despite a conviction for manslaughter.

King appeared with Trump in September at a Cleveland church and stood with the president-elect last week while Trump was answering questions from the press at his Palm Beach resort.

Trump has been drawn to other 1980s stars. Tyson endorsed the celebrity businessman. Actor Scott Baio, an outspoken Trump supporter, reached the zenith of his fame

in the 1980s with the shows “Happy Days” and “Charles in Charge.” And on Saturday, actor Sylvester Stallone—who starred in three “Rambo” movies and two “Rocky” sequels in the 1980s—was a star guest at Trump's New Year's Eve bash at Mar-a-Lago, the lush Florida estate Trump bought in 1985 two years after he opened Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York. (AP)

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE †THOMAS ALDAN REYES

Lovingly known as “Tom Onio”

BORN: MAY 14, 1955 DEATH: DECEMBER 28, 2016

*In his new life he will be met at the gate of heaven by his:

Wife: †Livita Damaso Reyes

Daughter: †Velma Damaso Reyes

Parents: †Roman Manahane Delos Reyes
and †Consolacion Aldan Delos Reyes

Brothers: †Joseph Aldan Delos Reyes,
†Joseph Duenas Dela Rosa and †Carlos Palacios

Parents in law: †Emiliano Damaso and †Engracia Damaso

Brothers in law: †Ronnie Damaso and †Leovino Damaso

Niece: †Regie Gale Toves Reyes

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his...

Children and Grandchildren:

Grettel D. Solomon & Lever Solomon

Valerie D. Reyes & Jose S. Castro (Romanika, Uriyah & Josiah)

Verna Lynn D. Reyes & Christopher T. Camacho (Verisa & Konah)

Vivian Marie D. Reyes & Louie C. Crisostomo (Donavon, Dylan,
Dylvona & Blayke)

Tommy Emil D. Reyes & Kayla S. Borja

Thomas Roman D. Reyes

Kyle Jay R. Arriola and Kody Jared R. Arriola (Children of †Velma D. Reyes)

Reared Son: Jerome San Augustin Reyes and Rachael Quimbao Reyes (Jerome Jr. & Jo Ann)

Brothers, sisters, in laws and their children:

Antonio Aldan Delos Reyes and Nanette Delos Reyes & Children

Margarita Muna Delos Reyes and Children

Frances Dela Rosa Pangelinan and Martin Pangelinan & Children

Vivian Dela Rosa Palacios and Mariano Palacios & Children

Rudy Duenas Dela Rosa and Nora Dela Rosa & Children

Aurora D. Crisostomo and Nestor Crisostomo & Family

Yolanda D. Del Rosario and Family

Jollie D. Victoriano and Lorenzo Victoiano & Family

Reared Sisters:

Rosa Delos Reyes Palacios & Children

Ladonna Delos Reyes Flores and John Torres Flores & Children

Special Friend:

Arlene Muna & Family

He will be remembered by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren and friends.

Holy rosary are being held at his residence at Airport Road at 7:30pm. On Thursday, January 05, 2016 his remains will be transported from CHC morgue at 6:30am to his residence at Airport Road where last respect and viewing will be held. Mass of Christian burial will be held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 1:00pm and interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**The presence and prayers of all family and friends
are greatly appreciated.**

From: *Children, grandchildren and family*

Together Again



Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher to be buried together

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Debbie Reynolds' son said Friday his mother and sister, actress Carrie Fisher, will have a joint funeral and will be buried together.

Todd Fisher said the actresses will be interred at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills, the final resting place of numerous celebrities, including Lucille Ball, Dick Van Patten, Liberace, Florence Henderson, David Carradine and Bette Davis.

The son said no date for the funeral has been set, but it will be private. A public memorial is being contemplated, but no

plans have been finalized.

Earlier Friday, the Los Angeles coroner's office released Carrie Fisher's body to her family. Chief of Operations Brian Elias says an examination of Fisher was done, but he stopped short of calling it an autopsy and would not provide any details on what tests were done.

Elias said there was no timetable for when an official determination on what killed Fisher would be made.

Todd Fisher said the family wasn't clear on what coroner's officials had done during the

examination, but was glad his sister's body had been released to Forest Lawn. "My mother and my sister are together right now," he said.

Carrie Fisher, 60, an actress and writer who starred as Princess Leia in the original "Star Wars" trilogy, died Tuesday after suffering a medical emergency Dec. 23 aboard a flight from London. Reynolds, 84, an Oscar-nominated actress who shot to fame after starring in "Singin' in the Rain" at age 19, passed away Wednesday after being briefly hospitalized.

"She said, 'I want to be with



In this Sept. 10, 2011 file photo, Carrie Fisher kisses her mother, Debbie Reynolds, as they arrive at the Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. AP

I Am Going Home



Rita Julia DeLeon Guerrero Pangelinan Villagomez

Affectionately known as "Ritan Pingkina"

Went peacefully to meet her Creator on Saturday, December 31, 2016.

Masses of intention are offered daily at 6:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Your thoughts, presence, and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

The Children of

†Dr. Jose Tenorio & †Rita Pangelinan Villagomez

Carrie," Todd Fisher, told The Associated Press. "And then she was gone."

In an ABC News interview that was to air Friday, Todd Fisher said that his mother joined his sister in death because Reynolds "didn't want to leave Carrie and did not

want her to be alone."

"She didn't die of a broken heart," Fisher said in the "20/20" interview. "She just left to be with Carrie."

Reynolds wasn't inconsolable over her daughter's death, he said, and instead simply expressed love for her.

China's state broadcaster CCTV rebrands in international push

BEIJING (AP)—State broadcaster Central China Television has rebranded its international networks and digital presence under the name China Global Television Network as part of a push to consolidate its worldwide reach.

CCTV on Friday unveiled several new mobile apps under the CGTN brand, and visitors to CCTV's non-Chinese language websites are directed to a new site. The broadcaster says it made the move to "integrate resources and to adapt to the trend of media convergence," with foreign language channels, video content and digital media falling under the new group.

The broadcaster published a congratulatory letter from President Xi Jinping on Saturday urging the newly launched CGTN to "tell China's story well, spread China's voice well, let the world know a three-dimensional, colorful China, and showcase China's role as a builder of world peace."

The government has long grumbled about the Western news media's hold on international discourse and has spent vast sums in recent years to enhance its own influence and shape global opinion, with CCTV as one of its spearheads. The broadcaster has channels in English, Arabic, French, Spanish and Russian, and production centers in Washington and Nairobi.

The international-facing makeover will be extensive. CCTV's international newscasts will now carry CGTN logos, while CGTN has unveiled two new smartphone apps: one that contains mostly news articles and one for live

broadcasts. CCTV's social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Tumblr—all of which are aimed at international audiences, because the platforms are all blocked inside China—have all been rebranded as CGTN.

In the past year, Xi has tightened the ruling Communist Party's control over state media outlets while rearticulating their core mission to serve as the government's mouthpiece. Xi memorably sat in the evening news anchor's chair himself during a high-profile tour of CCTV's Beijing headquarters in February when he urged journalists to ramp up their coverage of positive news and pledge complete loyalty to the party.

Major state media including CCTV and the official Xinhua News Agency have expanded aggressively in recent years with dual missions of becoming globally credible media heavyweights while sustaining their roles as vital propaganda organs of the Communist Party.

According to a 2009 South China Morning Post report, China's government planned to earmark 45 billion yuan (\$6.5 billion) to help spread its message abroad. The spending was never officially confirmed, but in recent years CCTV and Xinhua have invested heavily in newsgathering and broadcasting and raising their international visibility.

In 2011, Xinhua leased a giant display in New York's Times Square that has, among other things, broadcast videos arguing China's position on the South China Sea territorial dispute.

Researchers find Cumberbatch related to Holmes' creator

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Billie Lourd speaks out on deaths of mother, grandmother

Billie Lourd says the support she's received since the deaths of her mother, Carrie Fisher, and her grandmother, Debbie Reynolds, has given her strength. Lourd posted a photo of herself with Fisher and Reynolds on her official Instagram account Monday. She wrote, "Receiving all of your prayers and kind words over the past week has given me strength during a time I thought strength could not exist." She went on to say that "there are no words" to describe how much she will miss them. Fisher and Reynolds died one day apart last week. The 24-year-old Lourd is the daughter of Fisher and talent agent Bryan Lourd. She is an actress on Fox's TV series "Scream Queens," which just finished airing its second season. (AP)

Rome theater fires orchestral director for denying Santa

MILAN (AP)—Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. Or else. An orchestral director lost his job at the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome after telling an audience filled with children that the man in the red suit who delivers gifts to good girls and boys does not, in fact, exist. The news agency ANSA said Saturday that Giacomo Loprieno lashed out at the young audience for failing to applaud following a performance of "Frozen" on Thursday. The theater underlined the severity of the offense with a Facebook posting of the production's new orchestral director alongside Santa Claus. On social media, the firing has been both applauded for protecting children's fantasies, and derided for punishing someone telling the truth.

Proud mom Pink shares first sibling photo with new baby

Pink has kicked off the new year by sharing the first photo of her new baby with his big sister. The 37-year-old singer, whose real name is Alecia Moore, posted a picture of her daughter Willow holding baby Jameson on Instagram Sunday. The 5-year-old looks thrilled and has a big smile on her face. She's also showing off some pink highlights in her hair. Moore wrote in the caption that she and husband Carey Hart "thank you for your love and we send it back to you in spades." Jameson Moon Hart was born on Dec. 26. Moore and Hart were married in 2006. (AP)

Katie Couric returns to 'Today' show as guest co-anchor

NEW YORK (AP)—Longtime "Today" show viewers are being treated to a familiar sight this week as Katie Couric returns to the co-anchor chair for the first time in more than a decade. Couric rejoined Matt Lauer on Monday to begin a weeklong stint on the NBC morning program. She told Lauer, "It just feels like I never left." She has made cameo appearances on the show in recent years, but Monday was her first time as a guest co-anchor. Couric co-hosted "Today" with Lauer and his predecessor, Bryant Gumbel, from 1989 to 2006. She left NBC to become anchor of the CBS Evening News and is now with Yahoo News. Couric is filling in for Savannah Guthrie, who's on maternity leave. Another former "Today" co-anchor, Meredith Vieira, will fill in next week.

NEW YORK (AP) — Genealogy detectives have discovered that Benedict Cumberbatch, the British actor who portrays Sherlock Holmes in the PBS television series, is distantly related to the author who created the iconic character more than a century ago.

Cumberbatch, 40, and the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who died in 1930, were 16th cousins, twice removed, according to the

web site Ancestry.com.

Cumberbatch and "Sherlock" return for three new episodes beginning Sunday night. With the British actor rocketing to movie stardom, it's likely to be his last time in the character.

Ancestry.com wasn't asked to dig into the backgrounds of Cumberbatch and Doyle, but its researchers love both the series and historical puzzles, said spokesman Dallin Hatch.

They haven't told the actor of the connection.

Doyle and Cumberbatch's common ancestor was John of Gaunt, the duke of Lancaster and the fourth son of King Edward III of England, who lived in the 14th Century, the website said. John of Gaunt was Doyle's 15th great-grandfather and Cumberbatch's 17th great-grandfather.

"Making family history

connections is similar to piecing together a mysterious puzzle, one that the great Sherlock Holmes himself would be intrigued to solve," said Lisa Elzey, family historian at Ancestry.

Holmes and sidekick John Watson, played in the PBS series by Martin Freeman, came to life in a novel written in 1890, and were featured in dozens more detective stories.

60 injured in crowd crush at Australian music festival

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Sixty people were injured at an Australian music festival in the crush of a crowd trying to leave a performance, police said Saturday.

None of the injuries at the Falls Music and Arts Festival in Victoria state were life-threatening, but 19 people

were taken to the hospital with serious injuries, Victoria police said in a statement.

The incident began on Friday night when fans were trying to leave a performance by the Australian band DMA's. Several people at the front of the crowd then lost their footing and fell, police said.

Paramedics assessed around 60 people hurt in the ensuing crush, Ambulance Victoria state health commander Paul Holman said. Some suffered leg, rib, hip and pelvic fractures, head injuries and possible spinal injuries, while others just had cuts and abrasions.

"While the injuries are sig-

nificant, this could have been quite a tragedy and we are grateful that the outcome was not worse," Holman said in a statement.

Festival organizers said in a Facebook post that the festival's entertainment was suspended after the incident, but would resume on Saturday.

Mormon Tabernacle Choir singer quits over Trump inaugural

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir said she has resigned from the famed group over its decision to perform at next month's inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump.

Jan Chamberlin posted her resignation letter to choir leaders on her Facebook page Thursday. In it, she writes that by performing at the Jan. 20 inaugural, the 360-member choir will appear to be "endorsing tyranny and fascism." She says she feels betrayed by the choir's decision to take part.

The choir is part of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Church spokesman Eric Hawkins told The Salt Lake Tribune that participation in the choir and the inaugural performance is voluntary.

Hawkins said last week the choir's tradition of presidential performances isn't "implied



In this April 2, 2016, file photo, The Mormon Tabernacle Choir performs during the opening session of the two-day Mormon church conference in Salt Lake City. AP

support of party affiliations or politics" but a "demonstration of our support for freedom, civility and the peaceful transition of power."

Chamberlin's decision earned praise from one of

the most powerful Mormons in the country: Nevada Sen. Harry Reid.

The retiring Democrat said Friday in a statement to the Tribune that he admires people like Chamberlin who "re-

ject tyranny and fascism and do what they can to stand up for what is right."

Reid applauded her for refusing to "be part of the wave of hatred unleashed by Donald Trump."

Man feels abandoned as girl transitions to new relationship

DEAR ABBY: I am a straight man who met and fell in love with a transgender girl I'll call Eve. We dated for almost three years, and they were the happiest of my life. In all that time, we never once had an argument. She said I had given her the strength to come out to her family and begin her transition. I was planning to ask her to marry me.

Without any indication that anything was wrong, she dumped me one day and weeks later began dating her friend, another trans girl. I wanted to walk away and take time to heal, but Eve maintained that I was important to her and we could remain friends.

For the next few months we tried, but her new girlfriend treated me like I was a threat. While I was emotionally hurting, she seemed to take intense pleasure in showing me how happy they were together. It eventually led to friction, and now my ex thinks I caused it because I was jealous, so she cut off all contact with me.

I stood by her when she absolutely needed my support, but when the time came to give a little back, I was abandoned. I'm worried I will never trust anyone again, and I don't know how to get "myself" back. Can you help?

ABANDONED IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR ABANDONED: It might help if you consider that there are more than physical changes when making the kind of transition Eve was undergoing, and she may have felt that her trans friend was better able to relate to what she was

experiencing than you were. It was cowardly of her to just dump you rather than tell you she had doubts about your relationship, and it was selfish of her to pressure you to hang around as "just a friend" afterward. It also wasn't realistic.

What you are feeling is normal. However, it might help you to move forward if you keep in mind that all women are not the same, that building trust takes time, and give yourself time to heal before trying to replace Eve.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old woman who recently got out of a six-year abusive relationship. While I was in the relationship, no one knew what was going on. When I finally left him, I started dating a man of a different race. People are now saying I moved too fast because we got together a month after I moved out. But we had been close friends for more than a year before things started to kick off.

The issue is, my family disapproves of our relationship because of his race and because they believe he didn't give me enough time to figure out what I wanted. I feel like I already knew what I wanted. I had been emotionally done with my first relationship for a good six months. My family refuses to meet him, nor do they want to hear anything about our relationship. My family and I had always been close—until now.

I am happy with my new boyfriend (even my grandma sees a difference). I just wish I knew how to get my family to understand and agree to meet him. What can I do?

READY FOR THIS IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR READY: If you are open to a suggestion, because you were in an abusive relationship for so long, talk with a licensed psychotherapist about it. You were unhappy for a long time, and it's possible that the difference your grandmother is seeing is partly fueled by adrenaline.

You are an adult and you deserve to be happy. If this man makes you feel that way, then more power to him. Take things slowly, enjoy the relationship, and perhaps with time your family will come around.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Butler has 52 to help Bulls top Walker, Hornets



CHICAGO (AP)—Following a year of inconsistency and disappointment, the Chicago Bulls entered 2017 with plenty of resolutions.

There's one thing, however, they are hoping remains the same—the production of Jimmy Butler.

Butler scored 52 points and outdueled Kemba Walker, carrying Chicago in a 118-111 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Monday night.

Butler was a point shy of his career high, which he got Jan. 14, 2016 at Philadelphia. He scored 20 points in the first half and 17 in the game's final four minutes.

"It's an understatement to say he was phenomenal. He did it in any which way," Bulls coach Fred Hoiberg said. "He just took what the defense gave him and obviously made huge plays down the stretch."

Butler also had 12 rebounds and six assists while shooting 21 of 22 from the free-throw line. He has scored at least 25 points in four straight games, and his performance Monday surpassed his previous season high of 40 points, which he notched Wednesday against Brooklyn.

"I was just playing basketball," Butler said. "I didn't even know how many points I had. I just had a groove. Coach kept drawing up the same play."

Walker went blow-for-blow with Butler for much of the game, boosting his All-Star candidacy with 34 points and a season-high 11 rebounds. Walker, who scored 37 points against Cleveland on Saturday, notched consecutive 30-point games for the first time since March 7-9, 2016.

Still, Hornets coach Steve Clifford saw room for improvement from everyone—his star included.

"(Walker) did a good job on offense," Clifford said. "But we have to try on defense, all of them. Our defense is soft and they pick and choose when they want to play. It's not going to work."

Charlotte, which entered Monday ranked among the top defensive teams in the NBA at 102.6 points allowed per game, has surrendered 119.5 over its last two losses.

Nikola Mirotic had 12 points and Michael Carter-Williams finished with 10 points and nine rebounds for Chicago.

Nic Batum, who recorded a triple-double in Charlotte's victory over Chicago on Dec. 23, had 19 points, six rebounds and five assists. Jeremy Lamb added 15 points off the bench.

Charlotte led Chicago for much of the second half until Butler's three-point play with four minutes remaining tied the game at 100. Carter-Williams' jumper at 2:33 gave



Chicago Bulls forward Jimmy Butler brings the ball up court against the Charlotte Hornets during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, in Chicago. AP

New year will bring more games on more nights in the NBA

NEW YORK (AP)—With 2016 over and the NFL regular season as well, it's about time for the NBA to start showing up more often on more nights.

The new year will feature a new night of national TV games, one of the highlights of a busy January, when there are nearly half as many nationally televised games as in the previous two months combined.

TNT's new Monday night package debuts where last season ends, with the second NBA Finals rematch between Golden State and Cleveland on Martin Lu-

ther King Jr. Day. The Jan. 16 doubleheader concludes with Oklahoma City at the Los Angeles Clippers.

The second season of ABC's Saturday night prime-time coverage then returns at the end of that week with San Antonio visiting Cleveland.

There are 49 nationally televised games in January, including 17 NBA TV telecasts. There were 104 such games through Dec. 31.

■ ■ ■ ■

Steve Clifford painted a bleak picture for Eastern Conference teams late last season when it came to competing with the Cavaliers.

"If they play well, it'll be difficult for anybody in the East to beat them four times," the Charlotte coach said. "Somebody can beat them once or twice maybe, but not four times in my opinion."

He was right. Cleveland swept the first two rounds and then beat Toronto 4-2 in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Cavs enter the new year much sharper than they did in 2016, when they were sometimes wobbly under David Blatt and still hadn't figured out how to properly use Kevin Love. Now Love is thriving, averaging 22.2 points and nearly 11 rebounds,

and the Cavs seems firmly in control of the conference.

But Clifford won't concede anything yet the way he seemed to do then, praising the Raptors as well—though Cleveland has handled them in all three meetings this season.

"Love is playing, I think, at a different level, more comfortable. They're going to him more, he's getting the ball in the post more, also," Clifford said. "But I mean, there's 50-something games to play, so health ... is always a big part of it. But I mean they're playing at a really high level."

the Bulls a lead they would not relinquish.

Bucks 98, Thunder 94

In Milwaukee, Greek forward Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 points and 10 rebounds and rookie Malcolm Brogdon hit two free throws with 8.8 seconds left, lifting Milwaukee over Oklahoma City.

With Milwaukee leading 96-94, Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook drove the lane, but Tony Snell deflected the ball off the Thunder guard's leg and the ball went out of bounds. The referees initially signaled the ball went off bounds, but after a video review, they reversed the call and gave Milwaukee possession.

Brogdon then was fouled and made both free throws to seal the victory.

Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 30 points and six

assists but made only 3 of 17 shots in the second half.

Antetokounmpo had five assists, including when he drove the lane and passed to John Henson for a layup, giving Milwaukee a 96-94 lead with 54 seconds to go.

Clippers 109, Suns 98

In Los Angeles, J.J. Redick scored 22 points to help Los Angeles beat Phoenix, opening the new year by snapping a six-game skid.

Jamal Crawford added 18 points and DeAndre Jordan had 20 rebounds for the Clippers, who remain without Blake Griffin and Chris Paul. Griffin has missed nine games while recovering from right knee surgery, while Paul has missed six with a sore left hamstring.

Los Angeles improved to 3-9 without both of them in the lineup since Paul was acquired

before the 2011-12 season.

T.J. Warren led the Suns with 24 points and former Clipper Eric Bledsoe added 22.

Cavaliers 90, Pelicans 82

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 26 points as short-handed Cleveland rallied for a win over New Orleans.

Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving missed his second straight game because of tightness in his right hamstring. Cleveland dressed only 10 players thanks to a rash of recent injuries.

After Buddy Hield hit two free throws to pull the Pelicans to 84-82 with 2:56 remaining, James scored six straight points and blocked a shot over a 1:47 stretch to seal the Cavaliers' eighth win in nine games.

Cleveland's Kevin Love had 12 points and 11 rebounds despite playing only 24 minutes.

Channing Frye added 14 points for the defending NBA champions, who have won 13 of 15.

Anthony Davis scored 20 points with 17 rebounds for the Pelicans, whose four-game winning streak came to an end.

Warriors 127, Nuggets 119

In Oakland, California, Draymond Green's putback with 28.9 seconds left gave him the final rebound for his second triple-double of the season, and he finished with 15 points, 13 assists and 10 boards to lead Golden State past Denver.

Klay Thompson had 25 points to lead six Warriors in double figures, while Stephen Curry scored 22 points in Golden State's eighth straight home victory.

Kevin Durant scored 21 points, Zaza Pachulia reached double digits for the third time

with 11 points and nine rebounds, while Ian Clark came off the bench to score 12 points.

The Warriors reached 30 assists for the third straight game and NBA-best 24th time total.

Jazz 101, Nets 89

In New York, Gordon Hayward scored 30 points, Rudy Gobert had 15 points and 16 rebounds and Utah pulled away in the final quarter to beat Brooklyn.

Rodney Hood and Shelvin Mack also scored 15 points each for the Jazz.

Trevor Booker led the Nets with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Brook Lopez scored 14 points.

The game was tied 70-70 after three quarters, but Utah's Joe Ingles and Raul Neto opened the fourth with consecutive buckets and the Jazz never trailed again. They extended their lead to 89-78 on Hood's layup with 6:11 left, but the Nets pulled to 91-86 on Lopez's dunk with 3:11 remaining.

Utah countered with a 9-1 run and took a game-high 13 point lead on Mack's jumper with 1:09 left.

Rockets 101, Wizards 91

In Houston, Eric Gordon scored 31 points and James Harden had 23 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds to lead Houston over Washington.

Harden's ninth triple-double of the season was a rocky encore to his brilliant New Year's Eve performance where he had 53 points, 17 assists and 16 rebounds against the Knicks and became the first player in NBA history with a 50-15-15 game.

Harden committed six turnovers and was just 2 for 11 on 3-pointers after going 9 for 16 against New York.

John Wall had 18 points and 11 assists for Washington, which snapped a three-game winning streak and failed to move over .500. The Wizards haven't had a winning record since starting 6-5 last season.

Magic 115, Knicks 103

In New York Jodie Meeks scored a season-high 23 points while Serge Ibaka and Aaron Gordon each had 22 as Orlando rolled over New York, which lost its fifth straight game.

Nikola Vucevic had 14 points and 13 rebounds and fellow reserve Elfrid Payton added 13 points and 14 assists for the Magic, who were routed in their previous two games but totally turned things around against a Knicks team that played without Kristaps Porzingis or much defensive intensity.

Carmelo Anthony scored 19 points for the Knicks, who have dropped eight of 10 to fall to 16-18.

Raiders, Texans not first to start playoffs with QB problems



DENVER (AP)—Connor Cook is an untested rookie. Brock Osweiler may have a feeling he's been here before.

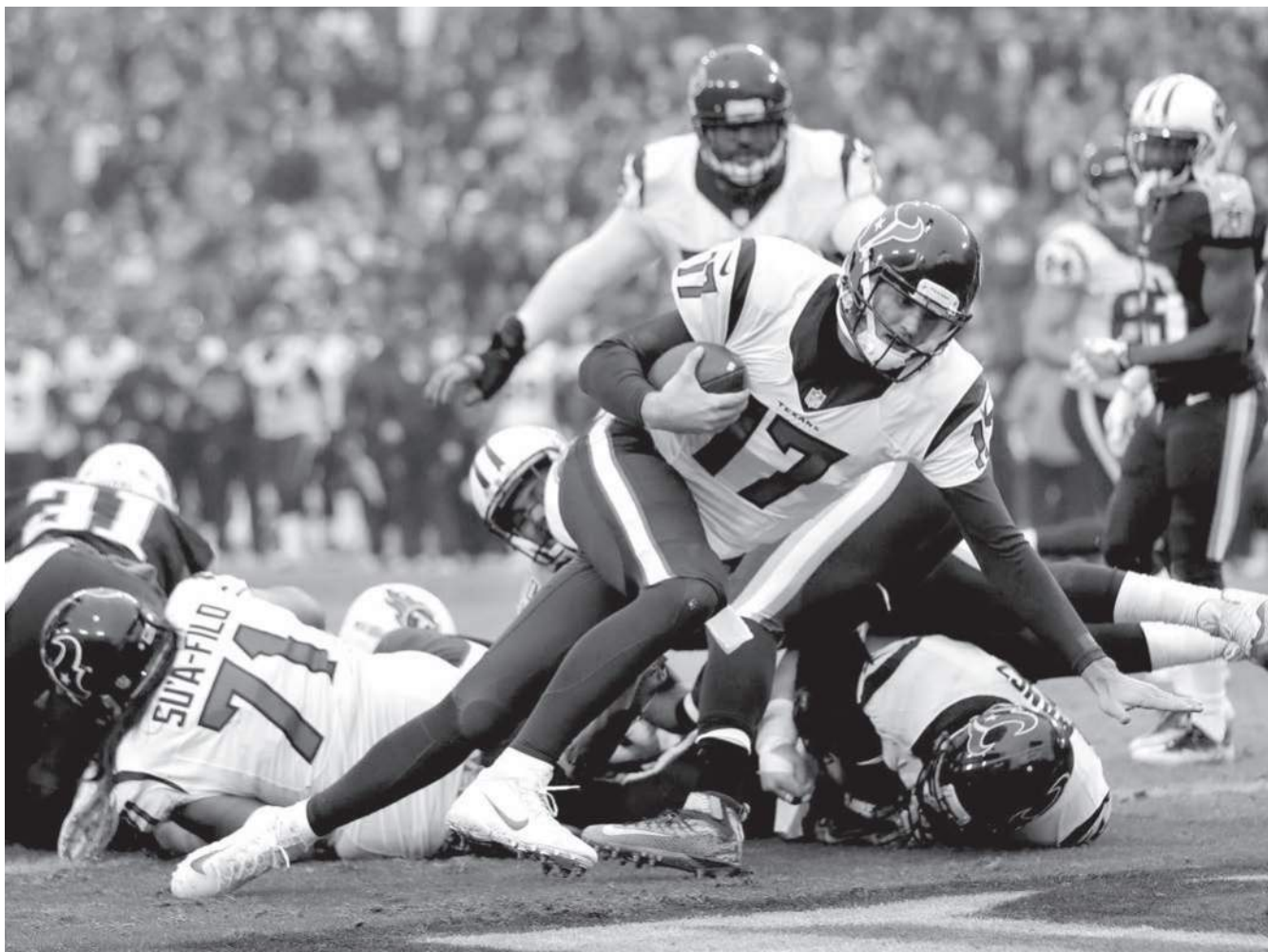
The Raiders and Texans square off Saturday in a play-off game that might be called The Quarterback Bowl. As in, both these teams are on uncharted roads with their QBs, and neither heads into the week of practice knowing exactly who is going to be taking snaps.

Cook entered for Oakland in Sunday's 24-6 loss against Denver after second-stringer Matt McGloin left with a shoulder injury. If McGloin, who was starting for the already injured Derek Carr, can't go next week, Cook would become the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era to make his first NFL start in a playoff game.

Osweiler could make his first playoff start, a development that seemed improbable a short year ago when he led the Broncos to the brink of the playoffs. So much has changed. On a roll after taking over for an injured Peyton Manning, he got benched for Manning in Denver's season finale last year, never to return. Osweiler signed with Houston in the offseason, but got benched there, too. And just when the Texans appeared settled on Tom Savage, Savage left Sunday's game with a concussion and Osweiler took over.

Who goes when the play-offs start?

"We'll talk about that tomorrow and the next day," coach Bill O'Brien said after Sunday's 24-17 loss to the Titans.



Houston Texans quarterback Brock Osweiler (17) scores a touchdown on a 1-yard run against the Tennessee Titans in the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, in Nashville, Tenn.

By those standards, the Dolphins seem stable, even though Matt Moore is also set to make his first playoff start when Miami travels to Pittsburgh for Sunday's game. Moore took over for the injured Ryan Tannehill in Week 14. He is 2-1 as a starter this year, including Sunday's 35-14 loss to New England.

So, while it looks like this season's playoffs will go down as some of the strangest ever in the quarterbacking department, it's hardly the first time. A look at some unusual situations from years past:

KAEPERNICK REPLACES SMITH: Let's start with a success story. In 2012, 49ers quarterback Alex Smith went down in midseason with a concussion, to be replaced by a not-yet-famous second-year quarterback named Colin Kaepernick. The league hadn't seen a quarterback quite like Kaepernick to that point and it showed. He led the Niners to a 5-2 record down the stretch and into the playoffs on a roll. He ran for 181 yards in his playoff debut and took San Fran-

cisco all the way to the Super Bowl, where he joined Joe Montana as the only quarterbacks to pass for 300 yards and rush for 50 in the title game. The Niners lost to Baltimore, and nothing has been the same since. Kaepernick has struggled ever since and Smith is now a (healthy) member of the Kansas City Chiefs, who won the AFC West this year.

LINDLEY FOR STANTON FOR PALMER: Ryan Lindley spent a good portion of the 2014 season on San

Diego's practice squad. The Cardinals, who had originally drafted Lindley in 2012, picked him back up after their top two quarterbacks, Carson Palmer and Drew Stanton, each went down. That left Lindley at the controls for a playoff game against Carolina. It didn't go well. Lindley threw two interceptions in a 27-16 loss. The Panthers allowed 78 yards, the fewest given up in a playoff game. Arizona coach Bruce Arians on his QB's play: "I thought he did great up until the first interception."

SPEAKING OF PALMER: Though Jon Kitna doesn't get credit for a start in the 2005 playoffs, he played virtually the entire game for Cincinnati. Steelers nose tackle Kimo von Oelhoffen rolled into Palmer's knee on his first pass of the playoffs and knocked him from the game. Kitna took over and threw for 197 yards and two interceptions and the Bengals lost 31-17.

AND SPEAKING OF HOUSTON: T.J. Yates became the Texans starter in 2011 after both Matt Schaub and Matt Leinart went down. Yates actually led Houston to its first playoff victory, then its first playoff loss the next week. Maybe most significant about that season and those changes is that the Texans haven't had stability at the quarterback position since. Osweiler was supposed to bring that (at a cost of \$72 million over for years), but his benching in Week 15 of this year scuttled that plan.

PEYTON MANNING, A BACKUP: Which brings us full circle. On Jan. 3, 2016, Peyton Manning suited up as a backup quarterback for the first time in his NFL career. That lasted barely more than a half. The Broncos were trailing San Diego 13-7, and though Osweiler wasn't particularly the problem, coach Gary Kubiak went with his gut and inserted Manning. The Broncos rallied for a win, got home-field advantage in the playoffs and Manning was no longer the backup. He led the Broncos to the title, and Osweiler moved on to Houston.

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Eighteen years after Gary Kubiak tried to talk John Elway out of retiring, the roles were reversed.

The result was the same.

"He put up his hand and said, 'Remember when you did that to me?'" Elway recounted. "I said, 'Yeah, OK.'"

With that, Kubiak, 55, left the NFL pressure cooker over season-long health concerns, stepping down from his dream job Monday with two years left on his contract, a grateful family and a Super Bowl 50 ring.

In 1999, Elway's knees were shot after leading Denver to back-to-back Lombardi Trophies, so when Mike Shanahan dispatched his offensive coordinator to try to change his quarterback's mind, Elway told Kubiak not to waste his breath but to have a seat and chase some beers with him instead.

Their paths crossed again two years ago when Elway, now the Broncos GM, lured

Broncos coach Gary Kubiak officially steps down

Kubiak back to Denver a little more than a year after Kubiak had suffered a mini-stroke and collapsed at halftime of a game while coaching the Houston Texans.

Kubiak had another health scare in October when he suffered a complex migraine and had to take a week off work. He lightened his load for a while but he's just not wired that way. Anyway, Kubiak said that was just one episode in a season-long grind that convinced him it's time to move on.

"I'm doing great, I'm OK," he said at a news conference where he choked up several times. "But coaching is a very demanding business, a tough business and I've struggled big-time this year. I'm going to find something else to do."

And Elway will find another coach, his third in his six

seasons as GM.

Kubiak summoned Elway to his hotel room in Kansas City on Christmas Eve, 24 hours before the Broncos (9-7) would get bounced from the playoff chase just 11 months after winning it all.

"He said I want to talk to you as a friend, not my boss. And that's how we talked," Elway said, adding that he wasn't surprised when Kubiak told him he was going to step down after the season whether or not they made the playoffs.

"I can't tell you how many times I thought about putting my boss hat back on and put my selling process back in there so we could try to make it work," Elway said.

Players were disheartened to say goodbye to Kubiak but expressed confidence in Elway finding the right replacement.

"He's the king of the come-

back, on and off the field," linebacker Von Miller said.

Elway said there are several young candidates he's eager to interview, suggesting he'd be more inclined to go with a young up-and-comer such as Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan—Mike's son—and not another veteran like Kubiak or John Fox, Elway's first hire in 2011.

"Obviously, there's a lot of young guys out there that have a lot of potential and are very bright, young guys," Elway said. "So, hopefully we can get one of those."

Elway said nobody on the current staff is a candidate to replace Kubiak but he's hopeful the new coach will keep some assistants such as defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, whose contract is up.

The new head coach will inherit a dominant defense,

upgraded offensive and defensive lines that Elway promised to fix again this offseason and a quarterback competition between Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch.

Developing the young QBs will be a major part of the job description.

"For me, and having played the game, I know how important the relationship is to have with the quarterback," Elway said.

Elway said his top priority is keeping his defense top-notch while trying to get his offense to the same level.

"We've got to get better offensively," he said. "We've got to compete better offensively and say you know what, we carry half of this load and we can't rely on that defense."

A melancholy Elway said he'll miss his longtime sidekick both personally

and professionally.

"But I'm happy for Gary. I know how hard it was for him to make that decision," Elway said. "Gary will always be missed, but I am excited about the opportunity with some people out there that have the chance to come in here and be right in lockstep with what we want to do."

As for his own energy levels, Elway said he's still driven to lead Denver's front office. Team President Joe Ellis said he's been in talks to extend Elway's contract, which has a year remaining.

"Challenges excite me," Elway said. "That's what it's about. You adjust. Things are going to happen good and bad. It's all about adjusting and this game is about adjusting. The goal and the plan have not changed and that is to compete for world championships. We were there a year ago and there's no reason why we can't get back there soon again."

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski takes leave to have back surgery

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Hall of Fame Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski is stepping away from the team to have lower back surgery.

The school announced Monday that the procedure is scheduled for Friday, with an anticipated recovery time of four weeks.

Krzyzewski will coach Wednesday night's game against Georgia Tech before handing off to associate head coach Jeff Capel for Saturday's home game against Boston College.

Krzyzewski, 69, will have a fragment of a herniated disk removed at Duke University Hospital. The school says Krzyzewski tried several treatment options during the past month before deciding on surgery.



Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski yells to his players during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Saturday, Dec 31, 2016, at Cassell Coliseum in Blacksburg, Va. Tech won 89-75.

Krzyzewski said in a statement that he consulted with the university's medical team and "together, we have determined that surgery is the best course of action at this time." He says the Blue Devils will "be in the capable hands" of Capel and assistants Nate James and Jon Scheyer. "As soon as the doctors clear me to do so, I look forward to returning and giving our team 100 (percent) of my energy and attention, which is certainly something that they deserve," he said.

The winningest men's coach in Division I history had four surgeries during the offseason to replace his left knee, repair his left ankle and fix a hernia. He squeezed those procedures into a busy summer in which he also led the U.S. Olympic team to the gold medal in Rio de Janeiro.

"To be sure, the entire Duke community is supportive and eager to get Mike back as soon as possible," Duke athletic director Kevin White said. "His health is paramount, and he

will get the best possible care in the world by the Duke medical team. With the proper recovery time, we look forward to Mike doing what he does best—leading and teaching—very soon."

Capel—a former Duke guard who went 175-110 in nine years coaching at Virginia Commonwealth and Oklahoma—previously took over for Krzyzewski when he missed a trip to Georgia Tech

last February because of dehydration and high blood pressure.

That victory in Atlanta marked the first time Krzyzewski did not travel with his team

since the 1994-95 season, when he missed the final 19 games due to back surgery and exhaustion. Those Blue Devils went 4-15 during that span and became the last Duke team to miss the NCAA Tournament.

Monday's announcement marks the latest twist in an already drama-filled season for a team voted No. 1 in the preseason on the strength of a lineup led by preseason AP All-American guard Grayson Allen and four immediate-impact freshmen.

On Saturday, the Blue Devils (12-2) were routed at Virginia Tech in the first game of Allen's indefinite suspension for tripping yet another opponent. And those freshmen—Harry Giles, Jayson Tatum, Marques Bolden and Frank Jackson—have played in the same game only three times because of various injuries.

Alabama OC Kiffin leaving before national title game

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—Lane Kiffin isn't sticking around to run Alabama's offense in the national championship game, bringing an end to a successful but sometimes tense three-year pairing with Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban.

Saban said Monday that Kiffin will leave to focus on his new job as Florida Atlantic's head coach. Incoming offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian will replace him for the Jan. 9 game against Clemson in Tampa, Florida.

Kiffin and Saban said they made the decision after meet-

ings following the Peach Bowl win over Washington.

"We appreciate all that Lane has done for our football program over the last three years," Saban said.

"We sat down following the Washington game and talked about the time demands of managing both jobs, and we recognized that it is best for our players, and for Lane, that we allow him to turn his full attention to his new head coaching role at FAU.

"This wasn't an easy decision and we appreciate the

way Lane handled this in terms of doing what is best for our team. At the end of the day, both of us wanted to put our players in the best position to be successful."

Sarkisian, who was fired from USC last season, had already been announced as Kiffin's successor. He's been working as an offensive analyst for the Tide since the week after the opener against the Trojans and now has only a week to prepare for the national title game.

Kiffin said it became apparent over the last couple

of weeks that it would be better for both programs if he focused solely on the Florida Atlantic job. After meeting with Saban Sunday night and Monday morning, "we mutually decided that it was in everyone's best interests for the players and the program for Coach Sarkisian to take over all responsibilities as offensive coordinator for the championship game."

FAKE

From Page 28

uted two, and Merrick Toves, Devin Propst, and John Mark Anastacio tallied one each.

In the other semis pairing, the top-ranked Fake Madrid II waltzed past Gene Weaver's team.

Miyawaki was the star in Fake Madrid II's easy semis win after firing five goals. Basnet backed Miyawaki up after nailing a hat trick, while Goto recorded two. Garette Weaver and Dylan Kim had one goal each for Gene Weaver's Team.

Gene Weaver's Team ended up in fourth place, as Kanoa Mighty Orange won the consolation match in the divi-

sion, 10-3. Anthony Bergancia posted four goals for Kanoa Mighty Orange, while Joyce and Merrick chipped in three apiece. Weaver, Kim, and Christopher had one goal each for Gene Weaver's Team.

Meanwhile, Joyce and Basnet were named Golden Boot winners in the co-ed U12 division after scoring 4 and 12 goals, respectively, in the round-robin elimination. In the U16 division, the Golden Boot awards went to Newcastle FC's Mareko Tekopua and Guinevere Borja. Tekopua had a tournament-high 16 goals, while Borja registered 13. Completing the awardees list were Kanoa Ali'i (U16) and Gene Weaver's Team, which got the Fair Play trophies.

6

From Page 28

Coume, who is paired against the host's Callison Row in her opening match this Friday at 12pm. At the bottom half, Coume's older sister Conatsu will go up against Vanuatu's Rosalie Molbaleh.

In the boys U12 singles, Paik and Woo are in the 58-player main draw. Paik is at the upper half of the draw and will face the No. 12 seed Maxwell Prest of Australia in the first round this Friday,

while Woo will challenge another Land Down Under bet in Zachary David Reid at the bottom half of the field.

Woo and company will also play in the doubles event in Albury and in the same age group competitions in Wodonga (draws are unavailable at press time).

The six CNMI players are in Australia as members of the Pacific Oceania Touring Team. They earned spots on the elite squad after their notable games in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Champion-

ships in Fiji.

After the two competitions in Australia, only Song and Miyawaki will return to Saipan (Jan. 19), as Woo, Paik, and the Kaga sisters will head to Fiji to train at the ITF/OTF regional facility for 10 months and attend an online school.

"Staying in Fiji is a great opportunity to learn and improve my skills. My goals are to train harder and win an ITF main draw match this year," Woo said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

JINGLE

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Patricia Surima, Desrei Camacho, and Halle Kenty chipped in 2 each. Louisa Han made the lone field goal for QQ Rent A Car, which held a shaky 16-14 halftime lead and failed to remain on top after making only three field goals in the second half. Princess Alcantara knocked in the two other field goals for QQ Rent A Car, while Han added a split free throw for the team's last point.

Carla Ballesteros also had two straight baskets for Jingle Ballers, drilling a layup and a triple, while Kenty recorded

one more bucket to close out for her squad.

Dalusong and Camacho top-scored for Jingle Ballers with 8 apiece, while Kenty finished with 7. Alcantara led all scorers with her 9 markers.

In the other women's division game, Jeralyn Castillo and Diana Pablo broke into double figures to hand Sun Palace the win over Armatech (1-1).

Castillo registered 15 points, while Pablo contributed 12. Mikky Vargas logged the 2 other points of Sun Palace, while no Armatech players hit twin digits in the loss as the best that Shyna Cubangbang, Candice Avelino, and Marlene

Lumabi could do were earned 4 points apiece.

Meanwhile, in the boys U16 division, the 670 Sonics improved to a 2-0 record following a 60-20 rout of the Ol'Aces 1.

The 670 Sonics was in control of the match right from the get-go, building a 29-14 halftime lead, and never looked back. 670 Sonics players' better skills and experience allowed them to hit more baskets than new recruits of the Ol'Aces 1.

Khristian Itaas paced the 670 Sonics with his 15 points, while five of his teammates added at least 6 markers each, and two more made it to the squad's

box score. The Ol'Aces 1, on the other hand, had only five players scoring with Darly Sorino and Andrey Venezuela leading their team with 5 markers apiece and the rest limited to one field goal each.

WOMEN'S DIVISION First Game

Sun Palace 29 — Jeralyn Castillo 15, Pablo 12, Vargas 2.

Armatech 20 — Lumabi 4, Cabangbang 4, Avelino 4, Francisco 3, Hemley 3, Peredo 2.

Scoring by halves: 14-9, 29-20.

Second Game

Jingle Ballers 31 — D.

Camacho 8, Dalusong 8, Kenty 6, Ballesteros 5, Surima 2, Hayag 2.

QQ Rent A Car 23 — Alcantara 9, Han 7, Paraiso 4, Buenaventura 3.

Scoring by halves: 14-16, 31-23.

BOYS U16

670 Sonics 60 — Itaas 15, Dionisio 9, Ordon 8, Sabangan 7, Kintaro 6, Apasan 6, Cadag 2, Bayot 2.

Ol'Aces 1 20 — Soriano 5, Venezuela 5, Lajara 3, Ogasawara 3, Laxa 2, Ferrer 2.

Scoring by halves: 29-14, 50-20.

| NBA STANDINGS | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Atlantic Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Toronto | 23 | 10 | .697 | — |
| Boston | 20 | 14 | .588 | 3½ |
| New York | 16 | 18 | .471 | 7½ |
| Philadelphia | 8 | 24 | .250 | 14½ |
| Brooklyn | 8 | 25 | .242 | 15 |
| Southeast Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Charlotte | 19 | 16 | .543 | — |
| Atlanta | 18 | 16 | .529 | ½ |
| Washington | 16 | 17 | .485 | 2 |
| Orlando | 16 | 20 | .444 | 3½ |
| Miami | 10 | 25 | .286 | 9 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Cleveland | 26 | 7 | .788 | — |
| Milwaukee | 17 | 16 | .515 | 9 |
| Indiana | 17 | 18 | .486 | 10 |
| Chicago | 17 | 18 | .486 | 10 |
| Detroit | 16 | 20 | .444 | 11½ |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Southwest Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| San Antonio | 27 | 7 | .794 | — |
| Houston | 27 | 9 | .750 | 1 |
| Memphis | 22 | 14 | .611 | 6 |
| New Orleans | 14 | 22 | .389 | 14 |
| Dallas | 10 | 24 | .294 | 17 |
| Northwest Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Utah | 22 | 13 | .629 | — |
| Oklahoma City | 21 | 14 | .600 | 1 |
| Portland | 15 | 21 | .417 | 7½ |
| Denver | 14 | 20 | .412 | 7½ |
| Minnesota | 11 | 23 | .324 | 10½ |
| Pacific Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Golden State | 30 | 5 | .857 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 23 | 14 | .622 | 8 |
| Sacramento | 14 | 19 | .424 | 15 |
| L.A. Lakers | 12 | 25 | .324 | 19 |
| Phoenix | 10 | 25 | .286 | 20 |
| BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | | | | |

2016 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament Co-Ed U16 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Newcastle FC's Joshua Abragan, left, kneels as he tries to prevent Astig's Alan Hinson from slipping past him during the second half of their co-ed U16 title match in the 2016 Saipan Soccer School Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex. Newcastle FC won in a shootout, 3-2.



Newcastle FC's Sunjoon Tenorio, left, and Alan Hinson ward off each other as they battle for the ball.



The ball hits the shoulder of Astig's James Ermitanio as he is bumped by Newcastle FC's Mareko Tekopua.



Astig's John Bucayo, left, kicks the ball, while Newcastle FC's Sunjoon Tenorio looks on.



Newcastle FC's Diana Maniacop, left, breaks away from Astig's Angel Sally.



Newcastle FC's Mareko Tekopua, left, attempts to deflect a kick from Astig's Alan Hinson.



Newcastle FC coach Chloe Salvosa, second left, huddles with her players.



Newcastle FC goalie Chris Aninzo gets ready to kick the ball.



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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fake Madrid II takes U12 crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fake Madrid II nipped Kanoa Ali'i, 3-2, in the finals to bring home the co-ed U12 division crown in the 2016 Saipan Soccer School Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Rohan Basnet stood out in the close win, as he made all three goals for the unbeaten Fake Madrid II. The striker drilled two of his three goals off



Rintaro Miyawaki and Kohtarō Goto's assists. Other members of the champion team were goalie Oliver Fajardo, Julianne Hall, Tori Weaver, and Jeremiah Diaz.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fake Madrid II coach Chris Aninzo, standing left, and his players pose with their championship trophy after beating Kanoa Ali'i in the finals of the co-ed U12 division of the 2016 Saipan Soccer School Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Jingle Ballers and Sun Palace gain first victory



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Jingle Ballers player looks for her teammates as she is surrounded by QQ Rent A Car defenders during the second half of their game in the women's division of the TanHoldings caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

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REPORTER

Jingle Ballers and Sun Palace barged into the win column of the women's division contest in the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament after outclassing their respective foes last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Sun Palace prevailed in its debut against Armatech, 29-20, while Jingle Ballers bounced back from a loss to division leader CTSI with a 31-23 triumph over QQ

Rent A Car.

Jingle Ballers played better in the second half to beat the debuting QQ Rent A Car, which is bannered by the middle school players of Mt. Carmel School. Jingle Ballers outgunned QQ Rent A Car, 10-2, in the first nine minutes of the second half to take a 24-16 advantage and then kept its safe distance en route to the 8-point victory.

Theresa Dalusong had 4 points in that spurt, while

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Kanoa Ali'i missed the division title after drawing only one goal apiece from Brian Lubao and Jaydee Jose. Completing the Kanoa Ali'i roster were Ian Lubao, Daniel Pablo, Nicole Carag, Bengée Bearden, Christian Guerrero,

Codie Forbes, Zenn Ichiro Tomokane, Lowell Lumauag, and Tricia Rabago.

The Cristy Villaflores-coached Kanoa Ali'i moved into the title game after outgunning sister squad Kanoa Mighty Orange in the shootout

in their semis match, 3-0. The two Kanoa squads were forced to play in a shootout after their Final Four showdown ended in a tie at regulation, 8-all.

Brian Lubao made five goals in the semis tiff, while Jaydee Jose chipped in two.

Kanoa Ali'i got an own goal from Kanoa Mighty Orange's miscue. Markus Toves led Kanoa Mighty Orange's losing effort with his three goals, while Paulynn Joyce contrib-

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6 junior tennis players competing in Aussie tourneys

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REPORTER



Six CNMI junior tennis players left Saipan last Monday to

join two tournaments in Australia.

Ken Song, Malika Miyawaki, Jimin Woo, Seung Kin Paik, and siblings Conatsu and Coume Kaga are now in the Land Down Under, getting ready for the 2017 Mar-

garet Court Cup and the 2017 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championship. The Margaret Court Cup will take place first as it will run from Jan. 6 to 10 at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales, while the Victorian Junior will

be held from Jan. 11 to 14 at the Wodonga Tennis Center in Wodonga, Victoria.

In Albury, Song is entered in boys U16 singles main draw, which has a 70-player field. He is at the top half of the draw and will play his first game this Friday against Australia's Lukas Evans at 3:30pm (2:30pm Saipan time).

In the girls U14 singles main draw, Miyawaki is among the seeded players at No. 15 and she is also at the upper half of the field. The Saipan International School student drew a bye in the first round and will have her opener versus the unranked Chelsea Mcgrath on Saturday. Joining Miyawaki at the top half of the draw is

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Min Woo goes for a backhand slice during a local tournament last year at the Pacific Islands Club. Woo and six other CNMI junior players are in Australia to compete in two tournaments.

